



## (U) CTS Horizon Report 24 July 2018

**(U//FOUO) Note:** The Counterterrorism Section ("CTS") Horizon Report is an open source U//FOUO daily intelligence publication tailored specifically to the needs of its principal reader. The brief is based on preliminary reporting, some of which has been derived from media outlets. Reporting of this nature is often inaccurate and subject to change as the situation continues to unfold. The principal will be made aware of any known threats to Chicago, on a need to know and right to know basis.

### (U//FOUO) Bottom Line Up Front (BLUF)

**(U//FOUO)** CTS has no information to indicate that a specific, credible threat exists to Chicago, at this time, but based on the current threat environment CPIC/CTS will continue to monitor emerging intelligence.

### (U//FOUO) Current Threat Environment

**(U//FOUO) Foreign terrorist organizations**—such as al-Qa’ida, the Islamic State of Iraq and ash-Sham, and their affiliates remain intent on attacking Western targets and continue to call on individuals to conduct independent attacks in the United States using a variety of weapons and tactics including arson, vehicle ramming, edged weapons, improvised explosive devices (IEDs), and the use of small arms. Recent plots and attacks demonstrate the continued and growing interest by foreign terrorist organizations and other violent extremists in targeting mass gathering events. To date, these attacks have focused primarily on soft targets, such as tourist destinations, sporting events, music venues, shopping districts, and mass-transportation systems.

**(U//FOUO) US-based HVEs**—possibly encouraged by violent extremist messaging encouraging further attacks, media attention, and perceived success of recent incidents—may also be inspired to act during the holidays and opportunities such as a convention to access large crowds. HVEs and small groups of individuals are of particular concern due to their ability to remain undetected until operational, their willingness to attack civilians and soft targets, and their ability to inflict significant casualties with weapons that do not require specialized knowledge, access, or training.

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(U//FOUO) Local Suspicious Activity Reporting (SARs)

(U//FOUO) NSTR

(U) CT Watch Overnight News

CONUS

1. US Justice Department spends more time on Gulen extradition request than others [Hurriyet Daily News – TUR]

- The United States [DOJ] has spent most of its time on Turkey's request for the extradition of U.S.-based Islamic cleric Fethullah Gülen compared to other extradition requests, a [senior] U.S. official has said. . . .
- "At the Justice Department, they tell me they have spent more time ["thousands of hours"] on the Gülen extradition request than any extradition request in their memory. . .
- The U.S. courts require a very high evidentiary standard for extradition.
- He said the U.S. Department of Justice has been working very closely with the Turkish Justice Ministry to make sure that when a request is finally placed before a judge, "it is detailed enough to have a chance of success."

2. Texas Resident Pleads Guilty to Heinz Field [Pittsburgh] Mass Shooting Threat [FBI/DOJ]

- A resident of San Antonio, Texas, pleaded guilty in federal court to a charge of Threatening Interstate Communications, United States Attorney Scott W. Brady announced today [July 19].
- Yuttana Choochongkol, a/k/a Jason Manotham, 40, . . . made three threats against the . . . National Football League Divisional Playoff Game on Sunday, January 14, 2018 . . . to engage in mass shootings and suicide at the game.
- "I commend the work done by the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force to identify and apprehend Mr. Choochongkol quickly," said ASAC Nick Boshears.
- Judge Fischer scheduled the sentencing for November 27, 2018 at 1:00 p.m. The law provides for a maximum total sentence of 5 years in prison, a fine of \$250,000 or both.

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OCONUS

1. IS-linked Group Depicts Trump and Putin as Targets [SITE Intelligence Group]

- An Islamic State (IS)-linked group depicted U.S. President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin as targets and incited for their death.
- Muharir al-Ansar published two posters, one on July 19, 2018, and the other on July 21, showing Putin and Trump respectively.
- The image of Putin is presented as a wanted poster with the text "Attack Them" and a person holding a knife.
- The image with Trump shows a circle around his head, a person loading a gun, and the text "Kill the Crusader Followers".

2. UK won't block death penalty for Isis Beatles: Home Secretary says jihads can be taken to Guantanamo Bay and EXECUTED . . . [Daily Mail – UK – embedded photos]

- Alexandra Kotey and Shafee El-Sheikh will be tried in the US courts for their part in ISIS activities.
- The ringleader Mohammed Emwazi was killed in an airstrike in 2015 in Syria.
- UK govt has not formally opposed the pair being sent to Guantanamo Bay.
- Sajid Javid said Britain will not need 'assurances' pair will avoid the death penalty.
- They are implicated in [the] murder of two Brits and three Americans.

3. Man charged with [UK] terrorism offence [Metropolitan Police – UK]

- Ravi Mendis, 43 (07.11.74) from south London was charged on Saturday, 21 July with engaging in conduct in preparation of terrorist acts contrary to section 5(1)(a) and (3) of the Terrorism Act 2006.
- He will appear at Westminster Magistrates' Court on Monday 23 July 2018.
- On Friday, 20 July, Mendis was arrested in the south-London area on suspicion of possession of an offensive weapon and threats to kill.

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**4. 10 suspected jihadists killed in Yemen drone strike, clashes [Dawn – PAK via AFP – FRA]**

- Ten suspected Al Qaeda jihadists and two soldiers fighting for Yemen's government have been killed in clashes and a drone strike, local officials and security sources said on Sunday.
- The US military is the only force known to operate armed drones over Yemen.
- Officials in Marab loyal to Yemen's internationally recognised government said a drone on Sunday targeted a house used by Al Qaeda in the central province, killing four jihadists.
- Separately, six Al Qaeda members and two pro-government soldiers were killed in clashes on Friday following an attack on a jihadist site in southern Shabwa province, security sources said.

**5. Yemen government demands Houthis release captives to restart talks [Al Arabiya]**

- Yemen's government said Sunday that it will return to the negotiating table with Houthi militias if they release all the prisoners they are holding.
- "It is necessary to show goodwill before the start of new talks through the release of all the detainees in their prisons," Yemeni Prime Minister Ahmed bin Dagher said at talks with United Nations envoy Martin Griffiths in Riyadh . . .
- He also demanded for the Houthis to "facilitate the arrival of humanitarian aid" in provinces where they control airports and ports.
- Bin Dagher told Griffiths that any talks would have to lead to a withdrawal of Houthi militias from the capital Sanaa and other towns under their control, and the group's disarmament . . .

**6. Suicide attack at Kabul airport leaves 14 dead, 60 wounded [i24 – ISR via AFP – FRA]**

- A suicide bomber killed at least 14 people and wounded 60 at the entrance to Kabul international airport on Sunday, officials said, as scores gathered to welcome home Afghan Vice President Abdul Rashid Dostum from exile.
- Senior government officials, political leaders and supporters were leaving the airport after greeting the powerful ethnic Uzbek leader and former warlord when the explosion happened.
- Kabul Police spokesman Hashmat Stanikzai said 14 people had been killed and 60 others wounded, adding that nine members of the security forces and traffic police were among the dead.

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- The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the attack through its official Amaq news agency late Saturday, according to the SITE intelligence monitoring group.
- From SITE: The (IS) Khorasan Province . . . reported that IS fighter “Ikrima al-Khorasani” detonated his explosive vest . . . [and] 115 were killed and wounded in the blast. [IS’ Khorasan Province Issues Formal Communique for Suicide Bombing near Kabul Airport](#)

**7. [Militant candidates \[in Pakistan\]](#) [Dawn – Pakistan – editorial]**

- In several [Pakistan] constituencies, candidates with strong links to sectarian militancy and jihadi groups are being allowed to contest the general elections.
- What is most worrying is that the institutions that have the legal and constitutional powers to block these elements’ entry into electoral politics are looking the other way.
- Analyst comment: see editorial for particulars
- From Fox via AP: A suicide bombing on Sunday in northwestern Pakistan killed a candidate Ikramullah Gandapur from opposition leader Imran Khan's party] . . .
- Later Sunday, the Pakistani Taliban claimed responsibility . . . [Suicide bomb kills election candidate, driver in Pakistan](#)

**8. [\[Pakistani\] Security forces kill Islamic State Balochistan chief in Kalat](#) [Express Tribune – PAK]**

- Security agencies claimed killing Mufti Hidayatullah, the purported mastermind of the Mastung suicide blast and Balochistan chief of Da’esh, in an encounter in Kalat district on Friday.
- Security officials said that they conducted a search operation on intelligence reports in Kalat where the clash occurred in which Mufti Hidayatullah and two other men of his group were killed.
- The Mastung carnage claimed the lives of at least 150 persons, including Nawabzada Siraj Raisani on Friday last week.
- Security officials maintained that Hidayatullah had dropped the man who carried out the Mastung blast, Hafeez Nawaz, at the rally of the Balochistan Awami Party (BAP).
- This updates [mastermind Mufti Hidayatullah killed] July 20 ONN OCONUS 8.

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**9. Horrible moment gunman dressed all in black opens fire into a restaurant in Toronto during rampage that left one dead and 13 injured . . . [Daily Mail – UK – embedded video and photos]**

- This is the horrible moment a gunman opened fire on a restaurant in Toronto in a mass shooting that left one dead and 13 injured including a nine-year-old girl, before he too was killed.
- Witnesses say that a man dressed in black opened fire in Greektown on Danforth, a popular area of the city full of restaurants and stores, at around 10pm on Sunday evening. Between 15 and 20 gunshots were heard.
- A cellphone video, which appears to have been taken by someone in an apartment above the street, captured the shooter wearing a black hoodie and walking down the street . . . passing a restaurant, before pulling out a handgun and opening fire.
- Mark Saunders, Toronto Police Chief, confirmed the suspect was killed in 'an exchange of gunfire' with the police. He said police are still looking for a motive . . .
- From CBC – Canada: He [eyewitness] described the suspect as a white male, in his late to early 30s, who was dressed in all black. Police have yet to provide a suspect description. [1 dead, 13 injured in Toronto Greektown shooting](#)
- Included in ONN for situational awareness

**10. British terrorist jailed aged 14 seeks lifetime anonymity on release [Guardian – UK]**

- Britain's youngest convicted terrorist, who was jailed for his part in a plot to behead police officers in Australia when he was 14 years old, is seeking to keep his identity secret by asking the courts for lifelong anonymity.
- The teenager, from Blackburn, Lancashire, referred to as RXG during his trial for inciting terrorism, was granted anonymity until adulthood by a judge in 2015 because of fears his case could inspire copycat plots.
- He was jailed for life in October 2015 for convincing Australian jihadist Sevdet Besim, then 18, to plot an attack in Melbourne on Anzac Day.
- RXG will be eligible for release in 2020 after serving a minimum term of five years on the condition he no longer poses a threat to the public.

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**11. IS Claims Killing 3 Dagestani Policemen in Shooting in Kizilyurt [Russia] [SITE Intelligence Group]**

- The Islamic State's (IS) Caucasus Province claimed killing three Dagestani policemen in a shooting in the town of Kizilyurt.
- The brief message on the attack was issued on July 22, 2018, one-day after the IS' 'Amaq News Agency published a report on the incident.
- According to these reports, IS fighters opened fire on a Dagestani police vehicle and killed three of its occupants.
- From Kazak Telegraph Agency – KAZ: 22 years old citizen of Kazakhstan has been detained in Tomsk for terrorism propaganda, reports News.vtomske.ru [latter not accessed]
- "The man acted under false identity . . . 22 year old citizen of Kazakhstan detained in Tomsk for terrorism propaganda

**12. Daesh suspect of Uzbek origin nabbed at Istanbul's Atatürk Airport [Daily Sabah – TUR]**

- [Turkish] Authorities announced yesterday [July 22] that they detained N.U., an Uzbek national whose only initials were revealed, at Istanbul's Atatürk Airport.
- The suspect was wanted for membership of the terrorist group Daesh.
- He was trying to board a flight to an unspecified destination with a forged passport.
- A court ordered his imprisonment until trial.

**13. As Violence Flares, Kushner Threatens to Abandon a Plan B for the Mideast: Rebuilding Gaza [MSN via New York Times]**

- Five months ago, Jared Kushner, President Trump's son-in-law and senior adviser, began quietly shifting his focus from brokering a peace accord between Israel and the Palestinians to tackling the dire humanitarian crisis in . . . Gaza.
- Now, with Israel and the Hamas militants who control Gaza in a fresh cycle of violence that analysts fear could escalate into a full-blown war, Mr. Kushner and his partner in Middle East peacemaking, Jason D. Greenblatt, are threatening to pull the plug on Plan B.
- Declaring that no foreign investors are willing to pour money into Gaza during what they label a Hamas-driven conflict, [both men] . . . are rethinking their efforts to rebuild Gaza's economy as a way of opening the door to a broader peace accord.

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14. [Pressure Mounting on ISIS as Operation Roundup Continues](#) [DOD]

- Combined Joint Task Force Operation Inherent Resolve officials congratulated the Syrian Democratic Forces today [July 20] on their successful clearance of Dashishah, Syria, and the ongoing success of their operations to clear [ISIS] from northeast Syria.
- The SDF ground offensive . . . continues south with the objective of liberating the remaining major population centers in the Middle Euphrates River Valley.
- ISIS remnants have been further isolated by a strong Iraqi border presence, preventing the terrorists' escape from Syria into Iraq.
- From Reuters: Russian and Syrian jets stepped up their bombing of an Islamic State bastion along the Jordan-Israel border in southwestern Syria, as the militants pushed into areas abandoned by other rebel groups, diplomatic and opposition sources said. [Russian-backed air strikes hit Islamic State in southern Syria: sources](#)

15. [Syrian White Helmets evacuated to Jordan through Israel](#) [AP]

- The Israeli military in coordination with its U.S. and European allies evacuated hundreds of Syrian rescue workers known as the White Helmets from near its volatile frontier with Syria, in a complex and first-of-a-kind operation.
- The evacuees, who were hemmed in from one side by advancing hostile Syrian troops and from another by militants affiliated with the Islamic State group, were transported to Jordan, from where they are expected to be resettled in Europe and Canada in the coming weeks.
- Jordanian Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi said Sunday that 422 White Helmets volunteers were evacuated, instead of the initial 800 cleared for the operation.
- Israel's military said the overnight operation was "an exceptional humanitarian gesture" at the request of the United States and European allies due to an "immediate threat to the (Syrians) lives."

16. [Prominent Islamic State leader arrested, east of Fallujah: Source](#) [Iraqi News]

- A prominent Islamic State leader was arrested in a security operation, west of Anbar, a commander said on Sunday.
- The member "is a wanted member who carried out several terrorist crimes w while the group was in control of the city," . . . .

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- Also from Iraqi News: Two Islamic State leaders were killed in an airstrike, northeast of Diyala, a security source from the province said on Sunday.
- Earlier today [July 22], the Diyala Operations Command said fifteen Islamic State members were killed in an airstrike, northeast of Diyala. [Two Islamic State leaders killed in airstrike, northeast of Diyala](#)

**17. [UPDATED: security kill 2 attackers, arrest third at Erbil province building](#) [Iraqi News]**

- Internal security forces of Iraqi Kurdistan Region, Asayish, reportedly killed 2 of the three attackers who stormed the Erbil governorate building, and arrested a third who was wounded, Baghdad Today quoted a security source saying.
- Later Kurdish media reports said later, however, that all of the three assailants were killed.
- Earlier, Iraqi Alforat news website quoted Nebaz Abdul-Hamid, mayor of Erbil, saying that three Islamic State militants attacked the Erbil governorate building in Iraqi Kurdistan Region.
- Abdul-Hamid said the trio shouted “Allahu Akbar” (Allah is greatest ) while storming the facility.

**18. [Islamic State announces death of one of its Egypt branch leaders](#) [Reuters]**

- A local leader of Islamic State’s branch in Egypt’s Sinai Peninsula has been killed, the group and a security source said on Sunday.
- The group identified the leader as Abu Jaafar al-Maqdesi and released a poster-like mourning notice titled “Caravans of shuhada (martyrs)” with a photo of a smiling, bearded man wearing a coat and a cap.
- “Brother Abu Jaafar al-Maqdesi, may God accept him,” a brief message posted on the group’s telegram channels read, without giving details on where, when or how he was killed.

**19. [11 extremists, 1 soldier killed in ambush in central Mali](#) [Daily Mail – UK via AP]**

- Mali's defense minister says one soldier and 11 extremists are dead after an ambush of security forces in a region where al-Qaida-linked fighters roam.
- Sunday's ambush in the Macina area of central Mali comes a week before the West African nation votes in a presidential election.
- The growing brazenness of attacks by multiple extremist groups has put the vote at risk.

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- From Al Jazeera: At least 3,000 villagers have been forced to leave their homes in the Lake Chad region after a Boko Haram attack on a village near Chad's border with Niger left at least 18 people dead.
- Lake Chad governor, Mohammed Aba Salah, told Al Jazeera on Sunday that the fighters also kidnapped 10 women. [Boko Haram kills 18, abducts 10 in Chad](#)

### 20. [Suicide bomber targets mosque in northeast Nigeria, killing eight](#) [Defense Post – NGA and AFP - FRA]

- Eight people were killed at a mosque in northeast Nigeria when a suicide bomber detonated his explosives, a civilian militia member and a local resident said.
- The blast happened in the Mainari area of Konduga, in Borno state, on Monday, July 23, said Ibrahim Liman, from the civilian militia force assisting the military in the fight against Boko Haram.
- “The male bomber walked into the mosque at about 5:15 a.m. (0415 GMT) while prayers were on and exploded, killing eight worshippers and injuring five others,” he told AFP.
- Boko Haram is divided into two factions that have competing goals and operational methods.
- One, led by Abu Mus’ab al-Barnawi and affiliated with Islamic State, is apparently in talks with the government.

### 21. [Somalia's al Shabaab says it storms southern military base, kills 27 troops](#) [Reuters]

- Fighters of the al Shabaab group attacked a military base with a suicide car bomb in the south of Somalia, killing 27 soldiers, the group said on Monday, a blast heard by residents of a nearby town.
- The attack follows a June attack on the base by al Shabaab that wounded seven soldiers. The group is battling to topple the central government and impose its rule based on its own strict interpretation of Islam’s sharia law.
- There was no immediate comment from government officials about the attack on the base in Baar Sanguni, about 50 km (31 miles) distant from the port city of Kismayu.
- From Garowe Online – SOM: [Somali] President Farmajo has temporarily moved his office to . . . a former UAE-run training center in the capital . . . [President moves to military base after attack outside Presidential Palace](#)

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22. [Comoros vice-president survives assassination attempt](#) [Al Araby – UK via AFP]

- Comoros Vice President Moustoidrane Abdou escaped an assassination attempt early on Sunday when his vehicle was fired on days before a controversial referendum on constitutional reform, a security source said.
- "His car was seriously damaged but the vice-president is unhurt, there are no victims," the source, who requested anonymity, told AFP.
- Abdou was travelling to his home village of Sima in the west of Anjouan island when assailants on a motorcycle raked his car with automatic gunfire near the island's biggest town of Mutsamudu . . . .
- The attackers escaped, the source added.
- Included in ONN for situational awareness.

23. [Maldives oil tanker suspect denies charge as wife sobs in court](#) [Maldives Independent]

- A Maldives businessman allegedly connected with an oil tanker suspected of illegally supplying North Korea denied a terrorism charge Sunday at an emotional pretrial hearing.
- The oil tanker incident occurred in March, when Japan alerted the UN Security Council of the suspected transfer of goods from a tanker operating under a Maldivian flag to a North Korean vessel.
- Abdulla Fahmy was arrested that month, but [was] granted a conditional release on medical grounds.

24. [Analysis: America's Gulf allies still sponsor hate preachers](#) [Long War Journal]

- The Islamic month of Ramadan is a venerated time in the Gulf. Worshippers place a renewed emphasis on piety and community, while governments try to burnish their moral credentials by sponsoring major religious activities.
- Yet in so doing, America's Gulf allies provided a platform this year to a wide range of hate preachers.
- Such conduct is particularly problematic when it comes from the Gulf . . . As such, incitement in the Gulf can often have ripple effects beyond the region and should be discouraged more actively by Washington.

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- Qatar is by far the most problematic of America's Gulf allies in this regard . . .
- Analyst comment: See article for particulars of named hate preachers in Qatar, Dubai, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

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# CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT

## Crime Prevention and Information Center



### Counterterrorism Section

#### Daily Awareness and Homeland Security Brief

24 July 2018

**TLO 3rd Quarterly Meeting**  
**Public Safety HQ 3510 S. Michigan**  
**July 25th 2018 at 0800-1230hrs**

#### On This Date

**2001, Sri Lanka:** LTTE attack on international airport and adjoining air force base kills 18, wounds 12, and damages 24 aircraft.

#### Special Events

**Alzheimer's Association 2018 International Conference**  
McCormick Place West Building  
0800-1800hrs

**ASI Show**  
McCormick Place North & South Buildings  
0830-1830hrs

**3 Doors Down Concert**  
Northerly Island  
1900hrs

**Arizona Diamondbacks vs. Cubs**  
Wrigley Field  
1905hrs

#### Public Gatherings

##### **001st & 018th Districts**

Wednesday, 25 July 2018, 1045-1300 Hours, Rally & March, 455 Cityfront Plaza Drive to City Hall - 121 N. LaSalle Street. The group will assemble regarding their campaign "Ethiopian Community Rally to Support Peace in Ethiopia."

##### **015th District**

Saturday, 28 July 2018, 0830-1130 Hours, Parade, 4941 W. Chicago Avenue. The group will assemble regarding their campaign "Say No to Drugs & Violence Parade."

##### **003rd District**

Saturday, 28 July 2018, 0900-1700 Hours, Assembly, 6300 S. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive. The group will assemble regarding their campaign "Israel United in Christ."

##### **010th District**

Saturday, 28 July 2018, 1015-1315 Hours, March, 2600 S. Kostner Avenue to Saucedo School - 2850 W. 24th Boulevard. The group will assemble regarding their campaign "Prayer Walk."

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It should be noted that some of this information describes First Amendment protected activities. The CPIC recognizes that Americans have constitutionally protected rights to assemble, speak, and petition the government. The CPIC safeguards these rights and only reports on First Amendment protected activities for operational planning in the interest of assuring the safety and security of the public including demonstrators and public safety personnel. The CPIC will continue to communicate these events with other law enforcement partners in an effort to facilitate the Chicago Police Department's mission of protecting the lives, property and rights of all people, to maintain order, and enforce the law impartially. For comments or questions contact the CPIC at 312-745-5669 or CPIC @ChicagoPolice.org.

# CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT

## Crime Prevention and Information Center



### Counterterrorism Section

### Daily Awareness and Homeland Security Brief

24 July 2018

#### Upcoming Special Events

16th Annual Run for Gus - 26 July @ 2500 N. Cannon Drive

Lincoln Square Greek Festival - 27th-29th July @ 2727 W. Winona St.

Intelligensta Cup- South Chicago Kermesse - 24th July @ 8700 S. Lake Shore Drive

Peruvian Festival – 28 July @ 2735 N. Avers St.

South Loop Beer and Cider Fest – 28 July @ 1801 S. Indiana Ave.

Bantu Fest – 28 July @ 1130 Midway Plaisance, Ellis Ave. – Dorchester Ave.

Ghana Fest- 28 July @ 5600 S. Russell Drive –Washington Park

Closed Loop Forum and Fest – 28 July @ 1400 W. 46<sup>th</sup> St.

Farragut High School Annual Alumni Picnic – 28 July @ 2800-3100 W. Ogden Ave – Douglas Park

Henry Horner's 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Picnic – 28 July @ 1501 W. Randolph – Union Park

Randolph Street Market Festival – 28 to 29 July @ 1340 W. Randolph St.

St. Mark Parish Kermes – 29 July @ 1041-1040 N. Campbell Ave.

West Loop Family Fest – 29 July @ 830-1000 W. Washington Ave.

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# CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT

## Crime Prevention and Information Center



### Counterterrorism Section

#### Daily Awareness and Homeland Security Brief

24 July 2018

#### Media Reporting

##### **(U) British Man Poisoned by Novichok Is Released From Hospital**

*A British man who was poisoned by a military-grade nerve agent in an episode that killed his partner and substantially worsened relations between Britain and Russia was released from a hospital in Salisbury. The man, Charlie Rowley, 45, and his partner, Dawn Sturgess, 44, were poisoned by the chemical on July 1 in Amesbury, in southern England, after handling a small bottle of Novichok, a nerve agent developed by the Soviet Union. Source: NY Times*

##### **(U) Turkish Police Arrest 43 Suspected Members Of ISIS**

*Turkish police said on Monday they had detained 43 people on suspicion of being foreign members of the Islamic State (ISIS) militant group in a series of operations across Istanbul. Istanbul counter-terrorism police units captured the suspected militants on Friday in simultaneous raids on 15 homes. It was believed that they were members of social media groups linked to ISIS and that they had been in contact with people in conflict zones. Source: Twitter [Reuters World]*

##### **(U) German Authorities Arrest 7 After Entering U.S. Air Base**

*The German military says seven people were detained after cutting through a fence surrounding a U.S. air base in Buechel. Germany's dpa news agency reported that the suspects were stopped after entering the security zone at the Buechel Air Base, in the country's west. The German military said the intruders were later released and now face criminal complaints for property damage, breaking and entering, and dangerous interference with air traffic. It's the second time in less than 10 days that individuals have broken into the base. Source: The Associated Press*

##### **Hundreds Flee As Al-Shabaab Militants Begin Recruiting Children**

*Heavily armed Al-Shabaab fighters have been engaging in gun battles with locals who recently turned down the group's order to recruit their children in Adale District. Al-Shabaab reportedly ordered elders, parents, and other community members in rural areas to provide hundreds of children for recruitment. The development sparked off clashes between Al-Shabaab militias and the locals in Gullane and Kadere villages. Al-Shabaab's violent tactic has reportedly already forced community elders to surrender thousands of children, including 300 in one region alone. Source: Standard-Kenya*

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# THE HOMELAND SECURITY *NEWS CLIPS*

PREPARED FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY BY BULLETIN INTELLIGENCE [WWW.BULLETININTELLIGENCE.COM/DHS](http://WWW.BULLETININTELLIGENCE.COM/DHS)

TO: THE SECRETARY AND SENIOR STAFF

DATE: TUESDAY, JULY 24, 2018 5:00 AM EDT

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## LEADING DHS NEWS

### Government: 463 Migrant Parents May Have Been Deported Without Their Children

By Washington (DC) Post

[Washington Post](#), July 23, 2018

The Trump administration said in a court filing Monday that 463 parents of migrant children are no longer present in the United States, indicating that the number of mothers and fathers potentially deported without their children during the “zero tolerance” border crackdown could be far larger than previously acknowledged.

The progress report to U.S. District Judge Dana M. Sabraw cautioned the 463 cases are “under review,” meaning the filing was not a definitive tally of all migrant parents who have been deported while their children remain in U.S. government shelters.

Sabraw has issued the Trump administration a 30-day deadline — expiring Thursday — to quickly reunite as many separated families as possible, and last week he asked the government to clarify how many of the more than 2,500 parents eligible for reunions are no longer in the country. He also temporarily suspended deportations of families that have been reunited.

Monday's filing included no additional explanation, but the government is scheduled to brief the court Tuesday

afternoon about its progress in the reunification effort, and will probably provide more details about the whereabouts of the 463 parents.

Their numbers amount to nearly one-fifth of the parents who were potentially separated from their children before Trump's June 20 executive order halting the practice.

Stephen Kang, one of the attorneys for the plaintiff in the case, the ACLU, said Monday's filing appeared to be the government's first attempt, however imprecise, to gauge the figure that his team, the court and many reporters have been pressing for.

“If this number turns out to be as large as the report suggests, this is going to be a big issue for us,” Kang said. “We have a lot of questions.”

Immigrant advocates say migrant parents were pressured into signing voluntary deportation forms out of desperation to be released from immigration detention once their sons and daughters were taken from them and sent to government shelters.

“We have concerns about misinformation given to these parents about their rights to fight deportation without their children,” said Kang. Locating them in Central America will be challenging and time-consuming, he said.

The Trump administration insists that all of the migrant parents who were deported gave their written consent and were duly informed of their rights in their native tongue.

According to Monday's filing, the government has reunited 879 parents with their children so far, up from 450 on Friday. Another 538 parents have been cleared for reunions and are awaiting transportation, meaning that at least half of the separated families will probably be back together by Thursday's deadline.

Under court order, the administration prioritized the cases of more than 100 parents whose children were younger than age 5, and the government has since moved on to the much larger 5-to-17 age group. After conducting background checks on parents and confirming familial relationships, the government interviews the mothers and fathers to ask if they want their children back before proceeding.

So far, 130 of those parents have opted against a reunion, in some cases preferring their children be allowed to remain in the United States with another relative while their immigration appeals are pending.

## **Family Reunions Update: Hundreds Of Separated Parents Potentially Deported**

By Tal Kopan

[CNN](#), July 23, 2018

Washington (CNN)The Trump administration gave its first indication Monday of how many parents separated from their children may have already been deported: More than 460.

In a status update on the ongoing court-ordered family reunifications filed Monday, the government said 463 parents of separated children aged five and older are indicated as no longer in the US, according to their files. Though the government says the number is "under review," it implies that potentially that many parents were deported from the US without their child.

The government has maintained that any parent deported without their child had the opportunity to bring their kid with them, but willingly left without them. Attorneys and immigrant advocates have questioned whether the parents fully understood to what they were agreeing.

A federal judge has ordered all families separated by the administration at the border reunited by Thursday, provided they are not ineligible due to issues like criminal history or safety concerns.

Family reunifications: 450 down, roughly 1,900 to go by Thursday

But for the 12 already deported parents the government identified in its first batch of reunifications, families with children under the age of 5, the government missed the deadline. Tracking down those parents and reaffirming they in fact do want their child to remain in the US without them proved difficult when the parents numbered one dozen. The

government has not indicated how it will track down hundreds.

According to the status report filed in federal court in San Diego, the administration says there have been 879 families reunited – nearly doubled since Friday. Another 538 parents are in government custody and cleared for reunification but waiting on transportation for reunification.

The filing also includes reunifications "or other appropriate discharges" of children from detention: 1,187. That number would presumably include children who have been released to a family member or friend that was deemed an eligible sponsor by Health and Human Services.

There are 1,634 out of 2,551 separated children who have been potentially cleared for reunification. Another 194 are either ineligible or declined reunification, 463 are not believed to be in the country and another 260 are being reviewed. The Department of Health and Human Services believes many of those children may have been released to another family member or sponsor.

Of the parents still in the US, 900 are already facing a final order of deportation. Judge Dana Sabraw has temporarily ordered a pause on all deportations of reunited families as he considers a request to allow families time to evaluate their options before deportation.

Another hearing in the case is scheduled for Tuesday evening.

## **Administration Reports Nearly 1,200 Family Reunifications**

By Elliot Spagat

[Associated Press](#), July 23, 2018

SAN DIEGO (AP) – The Trump administration said Monday that nearly 1,200 family reunifications have occurred for children 5 and older who were separated at the U.S.-Mexico border, still leaving hundreds to go before this week's court-imposed deadline.

There have been 1,187 reunifications "or other appropriate discharges" by the Health and Human Services Department's Office of Refugee Resettlement, which took custody of the children, the Justice Department said in a court filing. It was not immediately clear what "other appropriate discharges" referred to.

The administration has identified 2,551 children 5 and older who have been separated from their families.

U.S. District Judge Dana Sabraw has set a deadline of Thursday for the government to reunite all older children with their parents. He set an earlier deadline for dozens of children under 5.

More than 1,600 adults were believed eligible for reunification, including 217 who have been released by immigration authorities into the United States, according to



the filing. More than 500 were vetted and awaiting transportation.

More than 900 were “not eligible, or not yet known to be eligible,” many of them undergoing vetting.

The administration was still working to develop a list of how many adults have been deported.

Sabraw has ordered frequent updates as the deadline nears. The administration and the American Civil Liberties Union, which represents the families, are due in court Tuesday for the seventh time this month to discuss the status.

Last week, the judge temporarily halted deportations of families to give the government time to respond to the ACLU’s request that parents have a week to decide if they want to seek asylum after they rejoin their children.

The government’s response was due by Monday morning. But the two sides asked for a one-day extension as they sought to iron out differences, potentially setting the stage for the halt to be lifted.

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## **Feds Make Progress On Reuniting Families From Border Separation**

By Stephen Dinan

[Washington Times](#), July 23, 2018

The government is making major strides toward reuniting immigrant parents with children who were separated from them after they illegally crossed the border, the government said in a new court filing Monday evening that says some 879 parents are now back together with their children.

Another 538 parents are ready to be reunited, and are just awaiting final transportation arrangements, the government said.

The Trump administration is racing a Thursday deadline to reunite as many of the families as it can.

The parents were separated from their children in the chaos surrounding President Trump’s zero-tolerance enforcement policy, which saw the parents jailed for illegally jumping the U.S.-Mexico border. A federal judge ruled the separations illegal, and ordered the administration to quickly reunite as many of the families as possible.

The government partially met a July 10 deadline for reuniting dozens of the youngest children, those under age 5, with their parents.

But reuniting the much bigger group of children ages 5 to 17 has been a tougher lift.

The government says there are as many as 2,551 parents who may have had children ages 5 to 17 taken from them under zero-tolerance.

Of those, 1,634 are likely eligible for reunification right now. Officials said most of them have already been reunited or will be connected as soon as they can be transported — but 217 parents were already released into the interior of the U.S. and haven’t yet been found.

At least 130 other parents refused to take their children back, saying they’d rather be deported alone, giving their children a chance to make an independent case for gaining a foothold in the U.S.

A top government official earlier this month told reporters he expected that outcome, saying the reason many of the parents attempted the journey in the first place was to smuggle their children into the U.S.

“They’re not going to generally take that child back with them after they’ve accomplished the smuggling,” said Matthew Albence, a top deportation official at U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

The American Civil Liberties Union, which is representing the parents who were separated, says it fears parents are being pressured to abandon their children and accept a speedy deportation.

“These parents urgently need consultations with lawyers, so that they do not mistakenly strand their children in the United States,” the ACLU said in its portion of Monday’s court filing.

The ACLU also wants a list of more than 400 immigrant parents who seem to have been deported from the U.S. while their children were still held in government custody.

The government had promised that list by Friday, but admitted Monday they are having trouble finalizing the list. They explained their failure by saying “some of this information is still under review.”

Some 64 parents are still in U.S. but cannot be reunited because they have criminal records or otherwise are considered dangers to their children.

And another 260 parents’ children have already been released into the U.S. in “appropriate circumstances,” the government said. That likely means they were released to other family sponsors willing to host the children while their immigration cases proceed.

## **Watchdog, Enforcer, Coach: The Unusual Role Of Judge Dana Sabraw**

**Federal judge in San Diego oversees enforcement of his own order to reunite separated migrant families**

By Jacob Gershman

[Wall Street Journal](#), July 23, 2018

Full-text stories from the Wall Street Journal are available to Journal subscribers by clicking the link.

## **DHS NEWS**

### **Congratulations, You Are Now A U.S. Citizen. Unless Someone Decides Later You're Not.**

By Patricia Mazzei

[New York Times](#), July 23, 2018

Norma Borgoño immigrated to the United States from Peru in 1989. A single mother with two children, she set roots in the Miami suburbs, finding work as a secretary, dedicating herself to her church and, earlier this year, welcoming her first grandchild, a girl named Isabel, after Ms. Borgoño's middle name.

She took the oath of citizenship in 2007, a step she felt would secure her status in her adopted homeland. But hers, it turns out, is not a feel-good immigrant story: The Justice Department has moved to revoke Ms. Borgoño's citizenship, an action that could eventually force her to return to Peru.

Federal prosecutors in May filed a rare denaturalization case against Ms. Borgoño, 64, accusing her of committing fraud when she applied for citizenship and failed to disclose that she had taken part in a crime of which she had not even been accused. In 2011, Ms. Borgoño pleaded guilty to helping her boss, to no benefit of her own, defraud the Export-Import Bank of the United States of \$24 million.

Ms. Borgoño's case is one of several denaturalization actions pending across the country that suggest more aggressive immigration enforcement from the Trump administration, even for the most protected class of legal immigrants: naturalized citizens.

The government says it is doing what it has always done: Prosecuting cases of fraud among 21.2 million naturalized citizens, from people suspected of war crimes or terrorism to those in phony marriages or with false identities.

But Ms. Borgoño's case comes as the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, the agency that handles residency and citizenship, is opening a new office to investigate thousands of potential denaturalization cases, even as it approves more new citizenship applications than before. U.S.C.I.S. also intends to refer more cases for possible deportation, and to give citizenship adjudicating officers more discretion to deny applications they consider ineligible or incomplete.

Another agency, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, has requested \$207.6 million to hire an additional 300 agents to investigate more cases, including marriage, visa, residency and citizenship fraud.

Taken together, "it's new terrain for the government," said Victor X. Cerda, one of Ms. Borgoño's defense attorneys. "They're being more aggressive."

The renewed focus on denaturalization, and a recent uptick in the number of cases filed by the Justice Department, have deeply unsettled many immigrants who had long

believed that a United States passport ward off a lifetime of anxiety over possible deportation. Citizenship also opens the door to voting, a fact that Democratic Party activists and others used to their advantage in naturalization drives before the 2016 election.

The new push for denaturalization investigations, though, threatens what were once certainties.

"You put a question mark next to every naturalized citizen's name," said David W. Leopold, a former president of the American Immigration Lawyers Association. "And then you instill fear."

Denaturalization remains a rare, lengthy and difficult process, and immigration authorities say that only people who have deliberately lied to the government have any reason to be concerned. U.S.C.I.S. naturalizes 700,000 to 750,000 people a year; in 2017, that number was 715,000, despite a 35 percent surge in applications that began in the run-up to the last presidential election.

The increase required U.S.C.I.S. to hire more staff, open two new offices and expand 10 existing offices to keep up, though processing times have slowed. Still, the agency says it naturalized more people in the first six months of this year than in the same period for each of the previous five years.

The number of denaturalization cases, however, has also gone up: They averaged 11 a year from 1990 to 2017 and rose to approximately 15 in 2016 and about 25 in 2017, according to the Justice Department. About 20 cases have been filed so far this year, the department said.

More cases are expected from the new U.S.C.I.S. office investigating suspected citizenship fraud. Expected to open in Los Angeles next year, the office will review naturalizations that were flagged after old fingerprint records on paper were scanned into a government database a decade ago. The scans allowed immigration authorities to find people who had been granted citizenship despite having prior criminal convictions or deportation orders.

The Obama administration appeared to pursue few cases involving duplicate identities, unless they involved egregious wrongdoing or naturalized citizens who had received government security clearances. But a 2016 report by the inspector general for the Department of Homeland Security found that more than 315,000 fingerprint records for people who had been deported or had criminal convictions had still not been uploaded.

The report prompted U.S.C.I.S. to dedicate funds and workers to the job, starting in January 2017. So far, about 2,500 cases have required an in-depth review, and about 100 cases have been referred to the Justice Department. Prosecutors have not pursued all of them.

"We are not out there looking for people to denaturalize," said Daniel M. Renaud, associate director for field operations at U.S.C.I.S. "We're not going out and saying,



"Who did we naturalize last year? Let's open up that file and take a look!"

As with any other immigration approval, he said, "If there is fraud, then we think it's in the interest of everyone for us to deal with it."

Last year, the Supreme Court ruled unanimously that citizenship could not be revoked over minor falsehoods in an application.

Among the pending denaturalizations are cases against two men in Michigan and Florida. The Justice Department says it found evidence that the men did not disclose in their applications that they had outstanding deportation orders under other identities. Six people have been denaturalized since the fingerprint reviews began, including a New Jersey man who had immigrated from India and failed to respond to the denaturalization lawsuit filed against him.

Ms. Borgoño's case in Miami, however, is different, because it did not originate with the fingerprint database but with her 2011 criminal conviction.

Ms. Borgoño cooperated with investigators to build the case against her boss and never profited from his fraudulent scheme involving bank loan applications. She was sentenced to house arrest and probation, which she completed early after paying a small amount of restitution.

But prosecutors say that because the scheme began before Ms. Borgoño became naturalized, she should have divulged her involvement to immigration authorities, who might have then denied her citizenship.

When Ms. Borgoño pleaded guilty, prosecutors did not suggest her citizenship was at risk, said Mr. Cerda, her attorney.

"There was no indication, no discussion, that this could be used against her," he said, saying Ms. Borgoño's defense might have taken a different tack if it had known her immigration status was at stake. "There has to be a modicum of understanding, frankly, in terms of the government's perspective of which cases to pursue and which ones not to pursue. I just don't think that's being applied right now."

The Justice Department's other recent denaturalization targets include child sex abusers, repeat sex offenders and people accused of supporting or conspiring with terrorists. In 2016, a Pennsylvania man who 18 years earlier had been convicted of a white-collar crime, like Ms. Borgoño, agreed to give up his citizenship but remain a legal permanent resident.

"There's no statute of limitations," noted Matthew Hoppock, an immigration lawyer in Kansas who tracks denaturalization cases. "It makes negotiating these cases with the government really difficult. My client can agree to give up her citizenship if you promise not to deport her. You can make that promise now, but you could always deport her later — 10 years from now, 20 years from now."

Mr. Cerda declined to make Ms. Borgoño available for an interview, citing the pending case. Her daughter, Urpi Ríos, said the lawsuit had shattered the family.

"She did everything that was asked of her," Ms. Ríos said, speaking through tears. "I'm trying to do the best I can to make her smile every day."

Ms. Borgoño has no close family remaining in Peru, according to her daughter, who worries her mother could be deported and wind up alone and sick. Ms. Borgoño has Alport syndrome, a genetic condition, and has been on a kidney transplant list for two years.

She was overjoyed by the birth of her granddaughter, who spent two weeks in the neonatal intensive care unit before coming home.

"And then, not even a week goes by, and this bombshell comes," said Ms. Ríos, recalling the moment her mother was served with the denaturalization complaint. "It's without mercy."

## **Immigration Cop Shortage And A Caution Against Hiring Too Quickly**

By Joe Davidson

[Washington Post](#), July 23, 2018

With President Trump so tough on immigration, you'd think he'd have enough staff members to enforce his harsh policies.

Yet, Customs and Border Protection (CBP) remains below authorized levels despite increasing the job applications received, cutting the time to hire and boosting the percentage of applicants employed.

If you're an overworked employee, that needs to change.

If you're an immigration advocate, hiring should proceed cautiously, and some current agents need to change their ways.

CBP is on the front lines of the nation's heated — and at times shameful (as in Trump's family separation meanness) — immigration controversy. Staff members include CBP officers in the Office of Field Operations who protect points of entry, Border Patrol agents who guard territory between and relatively near points of entry, and Air and Marine Operations agents who watch over air and sea borders.

Like CBP, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, better known as ICE, also is part of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE enforces immigration laws nationwide.

At the end of fiscal 2017, CBP was more than 1,100 officers short, according to a recent Government Accountability Office (GAO) report, which did not include ICE. A long hiring process, high attrition and competition from other agencies are among the reasons.

In a letter to GAO included in the report, Jim H. Crumacker, a DHS director, said the agency “is constantly working to strengthen its hiring capabilities to secure staffing for critical frontline operations.” A CBP statement to the Federal Insider on Friday said the agency has increased personnel staff and contractors by more than 25 percent in the past year. CBP agreed with GAO’s recommendation to analyze why officers leave and use that information to improve retention.

But it’s also a matter of political priorities.

“While we have known for years that our ports of entry are understaffed and CBP cannot hire the minimum number of officers, this Administration has decided to focus available resources and political will towards building the president’s completely unnecessary wall and enacting his cruel zero-tolerance immigration policy,” said Rep. Bennie Thompson (Miss.), the ranking Democrat on the House Homeland Security Committee. He was among four members of Congress requesting the GAO report. “If CBP was able to prioritize the staffing and infrastructure of our border, we would be able to better process individuals at the border, including those seeking asylum, and the current humanitarian crisis would not be as severe.” Another requester, Sen. Ron Johnson (R-Wis.), chairman of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, did not respond to a request for comment.

Time to hire is a big problem.

In fiscal 2015, Border Patrol hiring time reached 628 days. That dropped to 274 days, or about nine months, two years later. The 628 days is an anomaly, however, because there were no Border Patrol job announcements in fiscal 2014, meaning that 2013 applicants weren’t hired until almost two years later, inflating that number.

Nonetheless, hiring periods resembling the human gestation period are just too long.

The government’s general goal is hiring within 80 days. The agency says that’s not feasible for law enforcement officers.

“According to CBP officials, the agency’s multistep hiring process for its law enforcement officer positions is intentionally rigorous and involves extensive applicant screening to ensure that only qualified candidates meet the technical, physical, and suitability requirements for employment at CBP,” the GAO report said. “Even so, CBP officials across several components told us that the agency’s time-to-hire was too long and directly affected the component’s ability to recruit and hire for law enforcement positions.”

But for advocates, the problem isn’t that CBP takes too long to hire, but that staffing up too quickly, including training, leads to poor-performing officers. A 2017 American Immigration Council report by Josiah Heyman said “the last time the Border Patrol received a large infusion of money to

hire thousands of new agents, cases of corruption and misconduct spiked in the agency. New hires were not sufficiently vetted, novice agents were not adequately supervised, and agents who abused their authority acted with impunity.”

Guillermo Cantor, research director for the immigration advocacy council, said it “analyzed tons of government records and showed the multiple ways in which Border Patrol agents regularly overstep the boundaries of their authority by using excessive force, employing coercive tactics and misinformation to deport migrants from the U.S., and retaining migrants’ personal belongings, to mention just a few examples.” He complained that “new hires did not receive sufficient training. All of this to say that slow growth of staffing levels is probably a good thing considering the negative impacts that resulted from the agency’s rapid growth in the past.”

Patricia Cramer has a distinctly different view. She’s a 14-year CBP officer speaking in her role as president of the National Treasury Employees Union chapter in Arizona. That includes Nogales, which, she said, is “the most understaffed port in the Southwest.”

“Officers and agriculture specialists are being forced to work 16-hour shifts day after day,” she added. “Employees are overworked and exhausted. This is the main cause of the retention issue. ... The employees themselves are usually the best recruiters but with morale being so low, officers and specialists are obviously not motivated to recruit.”

“Just to give you an example,” she continued, “I had an officer that had been in for about three years call me recently to notify me that he was resigning from CBP. He explained to me that he had a wife and newborn baby but never saw them because of the amount of overtime he was working. This officer decided to resign from a federal job and take a lower-paying position at a grocery store as a warehouse worker so he could spend more time with his family.

“That is how bad the situation is.”

## **BORDER WALL**

### **Border Patrol’s Efforts To Inform The Public About Trump’s Wall Are ‘Careless’ And ‘Inadequate,’ Advocates Say**

By Jen Reel

[Texas Observer](#), July 23, 2018

More than 40 conservation and human rights groups are calling for increased public participation as the Trump administration moves forward with its plan to build 33 miles of border wall in the Rio Grande Valley.

In a letter sent to U.S. Customs and Border Protection Monday, the groups called on the agency to extend a public comment period by 60 days and hold at least three public

forums in the Rio Grande Valley. The agency should send notice to all nearby residents, including letters in Spanish to native speakers, and publish the information in local media and the Federal Register, they said.

Environmental advocates fear the new sections of wall will further degrade the natural landscape, interfere with efforts to conserve threatened and endangered species, worsen flooding and weaken the region's ecotourism economy. "The construction ... would significantly damage the environment and harmfully impact the culture, commerce and quality of life for communities and residents," the groups write.

So far Border Patrol hasn't held a single public meeting in the Valley about its border wall plans. Over the last few weeks, the feds sent a letter to select residents and organizations requesting public input, but did not publish public notice or inform all residents, the groups say. The agency's letter also asks recipients to provide comments within 30 days, but is undated, leaving residents unsure about the deadline. The groups say the comment period is "not adequate" and that the agency has "distributed this notice in a manner inconsistent with transparent and informed decision-making."

"None of us feel like this is legitimate or meaningful consultation," said Laiken Jordahl, a borderlands campaigner with the Center for Biological Diversity, an environmental group that cosigned the Monday letter. "Effectively, they're only sending notice to individuals and groups of their choosing, which is no way to solicit a wide range of public comment."

Carlos Diaz, a spokesperson for Border Patrol, said the agency is reviewing the letter. "While we do this CBP via the US Border Patrol's Rio Grande Sector will continue to communicate [with] the local communities and other organizations in the Rio Grande Valley on this important Border Security project," he wrote in an email.

In its notice to residents, the agency noted that the construction of the border wall is meant to increase its "ability to impede or deny illegal border crossings and to provide improved surveillance and detection capabilities." The agency also wrote that it plans to evaluate the wall's environmental effects and is seeking feedback from local and federal governmental agencies, landowners and Native American tribes.

In March, Congress passed an omnibus bill allocating \$1.6 billion for border enforcement, including \$641 million for border wall construction in the Valley. Of the 33 miles of fencing and walls planned, the agency expects to build 25 miles of levee walls — 12-foot high concrete levees with 18-foot bollards on top — in Hidalgo County and 8 miles of bollard walls in Starr County. That's in addition to 20 miles of walls that already exist in Hidalgo County.

Typically, with large infrastructure projects that have the potential to harm the surrounding environment, the government is required to follow the standards set in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Among the requirements are holding public meetings and hearings and publishing notice in local newspapers, bulletin boards and websites. The agency's decision not to hold a single public meeting demonstrated "a lack of sincere interest in obtaining thoughtful comments and broad engagement," the groups wrote. Click to enlarge. The map shows planned border wall sections for South Texas. The ratings appear to be based on topography and the legal difficulty of taking over the land. City of Roma, Starr County, Project RGV-002 not included in this map rendition.

Map designed by Jen Reel, based on Army Corps of Engineers' map acquired under FOIA.

The Civil Rights Act of 1964 also requires federal agencies to provide notice to non-English speakers in their primary language, which community groups charge Border Patrol has not done. Since more than 80 percent of residents in Hidalgo and Starr County are native Spanish speakers, the groups wrote that the agency's "failure to include Spanish-speaking members of the public is unacceptable and would amount to language-based public input suppression and discrimination."

Ultimately, Border Patrol may not need to satisfy public notice requirements set out in federal laws.

A provision in the 2005 Real ID Act gives the Secretary of Homeland Security unilateral authority to waive any federal laws in the name of national security. The waiver was first used by the Bush administration to skirt a slew of environmental laws, including NEPA, the Clean Air Act and the Endangered Species Act.

So far Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen has not issued a waiver for construction of the 33 miles of border wall in the Valley. In the last two years, the Trump administration's Homeland Security secretaries have issued waivers for a 15-mile segment of border wall in San Diego, a 3-mile segment in Calexico and a 20-mile stretch in southern New Mexico.

The Center for Biological Diversity and other environmental groups are fighting in court over the constitutionality of these waivers, but Jordahl acknowledged that the agency might issue one for the border wall segments in the Valley in response to the groups' concerns.

If they did, Jordahl said it would demonstrate that the agency's "whole solicitation [process] was in fact a sham.

"If we ask them to take it more seriously and they push aside all requirements entirely, that would shed some light on their strategy here, which is to try and appease environmental and human rights groups that oppose border wall construction," he said.

## Dozens Of Groups Ask Trump Administration For More Time To Comment On Border Wall

By Julián Aguilar

[Bryan College Station \(TX\) Eagle](#), July 23, 2018

More than three dozen environmental, faith-based and immigrant rights groups are urging the federal government to extend the public-comment period for construction of the border wall, arguing that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security isn't acting in good faith.

The allegations come as the Trump administration is moving ahead with plans to build at least 33 miles of wall or other barriers in the Rio Grande Valley.

"[Custom and Border Patrol's] 30-day comment period, without even a single public meeting, strongly suggests a lack of sincere interest in obtaining thoughtful comments and broad engagement with the diverse constituencies affected by border barrier construction," the coalition of organizations wrote in a letter dated Monday to Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen, Customs and Border Protection Commissioner Kevin McAleenan and other federal officials. "Additionally, because many community members in the project area speak primarily Spanish, we ask that CBP send out invitations to comment on this project in Spanish."

The government is also side-stepping regulations mandated by the National Environmental Policy Act and only reaching out to certain stakeholders, according to Laiken Jordahl, the Center for Biological Diversity's border campaign leader.

"Not all the groups that signed on to our letter received that invitation to comment and that's something we're really concerned about. They specifically chose who they wanted to send it to," he said.

Jordahl added that it's unclear when the comment period began or ends. He said his center received a letter from federal officials on July 10 that stated it had 30 days to respond. But the letter wasn't dated.

"There is some confusion as to when the deadline actually is. And I know different people received letters on different dates," he said.

Other groups that signed onto the letter include the ACLU Border Rights Center, La Unión del Pueblo Entero, the Sierra Club and the Hidalgo County Wildlands Network. The groups are asking that the comment period extend to 90 days and that more stakeholders be notified of what the government is proposing. They also argue that federal officials aren't following current guidelines for constructing in environmentally sensitive or protected areas.

"Finally, we are deeply concerned that this solicitation for public comment does not meet the standards for public consultation that the National Environmental Policy Act sets forth," the letter states. "The NEPA process is a clear and

well-established method of soliciting public comment, for which there is no substitute."

A CBP spokesperson said in an email the agency would review the groups' letter and the Rio Grande Valley Border Patrol sector "will continue to communicate the local communities and other organizations in the Rio Grande Valley on this important Border Security project."

Jordahl noted that the DHS hasn't yet waived environmental reviews and other laws for the Texas portion of the wall's construction, as it has already done in California and New Mexico. But he said maybe that's what's coming later if federal officials stay on their current course.

"That they are not engaging in meaningful NEPA [policies] suggests they might be planning to issue a waiver in the future," he said. "They know that the public opposes these border walls."

## BORDER SECURITY

### Human Smuggling Getting Sophisticated On Northern Border

By Wilson Ring

[Associated Press](#), July 24, 2018

DERBY LINE, Vt. (AP) — While the Trump administration fortifies the southern border, there's growing concern over the number of foreigners entering the country illegally across the porous northern border with Canada.

People crossing the border between Vermont and Quebec have paid smugglers up to \$4,000, usually payable when the immigrants reach their U.S. destination, according to officials and court documents.

While the number of arrests is tiny compared with the southern border, the human smuggling is just as sophisticated.

"They are very well organized. They have scouted the area. They have scouted us," said U.S. Border Patrol Agent Richard Ross. "Basically, we are not dealing with the JV team; this is the varsity."

Driving the increase here, officials say, is the ease of entry into Canada, where visas are no longer required for Mexicans, and a border that receives less scrutiny and resources than the southern border, where thousands fleeing violence in Central America are being detained.

Much of the illegal border crossing activity in Vermont appears to be focused on a 30-mile (50-kilometer) segment of the Vermont-Quebec border where Interstate 91 reaches the Canadian border at Derby Line, about 50 miles (80 kilometers) southeast of Montreal.

From Derby Line, it's about a six-hour drive to New York and its teeming immigrant communities.

Guarding the border here is tricky because Derby Line and the neighboring Quebec town of Stanstead comprise one

community where homes and buildings happen to be bisected by an international border.

The community library was purposely built straddling the border to serve people in both communities. Quebecers simply cross an international boundary marked outside the library by pots of petunias. Occasionally, illegal border crossers will walk, or even drive, across near the library.

"This is really a town with an invisible border going through it," said Stanstead resident Matthew Farfan, who has written a book about life along the border, after he left the library's Vermont entrance and prepared to cross back into Canada.

Against this bucolic backdrop, however, there is a growing sense of unease among U.S. law enforcement authorities.

"The number of illegal alien apprehensions at the Vermont-Canada border has skyrocketed," said Christina Nolan, Vermont's United States attorney, whose office oversees the prosecution of people caught at the Vermont border.

So far this fiscal year, there have been at least 267 apprehensions along Vermont's border with Canada, compared with 132 all of last year, according to statistics compiled by Nolan's office.

In the Border Patrol sector that covers 300 miles (480 kilometers) of border with New York, Vermont and New Hampshire, agents have apprehended 324 people who crossed illegally from Canada so far this fiscal year, compared with 165 in all of 2017. Last month, agents apprehended 85 people across the three states, compared with 17 in June 2017 and 19 in June 2016, statistics show.

The statistics show no corresponding spike in illegal immigration or apprehensions elsewhere along the northern frontier. Border Patrol agents speculate it's because the area that includes Vermont is the first stretch of land border east of the Great Lakes and is a short drive from the population centers of Canada and the U.S. East Coast.

As part of a broader recent immigration crackdown, U.S. Customs and Border Protection has set up highway checkpoints in Maine, New Hampshire and upstate New York. One person was apprehended in New York on charges she had picked up four people who had crossed from Canada.

Visa-less entry into Canada for countries like Mexico and Romania, another nationality noted by Nolan and Border Patrol agents as contributing to a spike in apprehensions, play a role by making the northern border more attractive for people seeking to enter the U.S. illegally, Nolan said. A plane ticket from Mexico City to Montreal or Toronto can cost less than \$350.

The Canadian government in late 2016 lifted its requirement that Mexican citizens apply for visas to enter the country as part of broader efforts to strengthen ties with

Mexico. A similar requirement for Romanian citizens took effect in late 2017.

Canada views the recent visa changes for Mexico and Romania as having a minimal impact on the border, said Beatrice Fenelon, a spokeswoman for Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada.

In the past two months, agents in Vermont have chased border crossers through the woods near Derby Line; there have been car chases and cases in which agents have lost sight of suspects in the woods, only to apprehend them days later.

"They have kind of gone southern-border style where they are taking a hike and they are coming through the tall grass," Ross said. "It's something I would have seen years ago when I worked in Harlingen, Texas."

The agents won't guess how many make it across.

The flow of illegal border crossers goes in both directions. Since around the time President Donald Trump took office, thousands of immigrants in the U.S. have fled north to Canada seeking asylum.

Last October in the largest single case in memory of Border Patrol agents in the Derby Line area, 16 people were apprehended at a hotel after 14 had entered the United States west of Derby Line. The other two were the smugglers.

In another case east of Derby Line, a group of eight Mexican immigrants met at a McDonald's restaurant in Montreal after flying into Toronto and Montreal, where they hired two taxis to take them to Stanhope, Quebec, not far from where Quebec meets Vermont and New Hampshire.

After the immigrants walked six hours through the forest, they were apprehended by U.S. Border Patrol agents in Norton, Vermont, while riding in a taxi from Albany, New York, court documents say.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police, responsible for border security in Canada, made arrests last month in two human-smuggling cases between Stanstead and Derby Line.

In one case, the suspect, a Mexican who did not have legal status in Canada, has been convicted of bringing immigrants to the Vermont border and was sentenced to six months in jail, after which he will be deported.

The Mounties are aware of the cases and ready to help their U.S. counterparts, said RCMP spokeswoman Sgt. Camille Habel.

But the RCMP doesn't appear to view the problem with the same urgency as U.S. officials: "It's not a trend yet," Habel said.

Associated Press writers Rob Gillies in Toronto, Michael Hill in Derby Line, Vermont, and David Sharp in Portland, Maine, contributed to this report.

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## Border Patrol Arrests Three MS-13 Gang Members Over The Weekend

By S. M. Chavey

[San Antonio Express-News](#), July 23, 2018

Three members of the MS-13, or Mara Salvatrucha, gang were arrested near the border over the weekend, according to U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

On Friday, Border Patrol agents assigned to the Weslaco station made an arrest near Hidalgo of a Salvadoran man whose records showed he was a member of the gang, the agency said in a news release.

The next day, another Salvadoran was arrested, this time near Granjeno by McAllen agents. The man and his minor daughter had illegally entered the country, according to the agency. It was later determined that he was also a member of the gang.

RELATED: Border Patrol agents apprehend gang members, convicted sex offenders over 4-day span

Saturday afternoon, Rio Grande City agents arrested a third Salvadoran national whose records showed membership to MS-13, the agency said.

All three will be processed accordingly, according to the agency. None of the men were identified.

"The Rio Grande Valley continues to encounter instances where criminal aliens are attempting to circumvent the system," Chief Patrol Agent Manuel Padilla, Jr. said in a prepared statement. "We will remain vigilant and focused in identifying these criminal elements."

The agency encouraged the public to report crime and suspicious activity to 800-863-9382.

S. M. Chavey is a staff writer for mySA.com. Read more of her stories here. | [sarah.chavey@express-news.net](mailto:sarah.chavey@express-news.net) | 210-250-3122 | Twitter: @smchavey

## Multiple Immigrants Injured After Truck Rolls In New Mexico

[Associated Press](#), July 23, 2018

DEMING, N.M. (AP) – Border Patrol officials say multiple people have been injured after a truck loaded with immigrants rolled over in southern New Mexico.

They say 19 people were in a vehicle that had stolen license plates and tried to evade authorities south of Deming on Highway 9 early Monday.

The truck was being pursued by a Border Patrol agent who had his vehicle's lights and siren on.

Authorities say the truck reversed direction and tried to reach the Mexican border about 30 miles (48 kilometers) away at a high speed when the driver lost control.

They say the driver and multiple other passengers in the truck were ejected.

It wasn't immediately clear how many people were taken to hospitals.

Their names, nationalities and conditions also weren't immediately available.

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## AVIATION SECURITY

### New 3-D Scanners Spot Explosives Older Machines Could Miss, TSA Says

[CBS News](#), July 23, 2018

The Transportation Security Administration is launching new technology that could change the way bags are scanned at airports across the country. The goal is to replace aging X-ray scanners with new 3-D carry-on bag scanners that use the same technology as CT scans. The TSA believes they will spot explosives older machines could miss.

The brand-new Analogic 3-D CT scanner can see through just about anything in a carry-on bag to spot a potential threat. The TSA is rolling it out at a checkpoint at the American Airlines terminal at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York City.

The Analogic ConneCT Checkpoint Security System has been installed at the American Airlines terminal at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York City.

Concerns about certain explosives getting by some older X-ray machines prompted TSA to ask travelers to take devices larger than a phone out of their bags, and remove food, liquids, and most recently powders. This new technology may bring all that to an end.

The Analogic scanner works like a CT machine in a hospital, seeing through even a cluttered bag and giving screeners the ability to zoom in and rotate the bag for a 360-degree view.

A 3-D scan of a bag's contents will allow airport security screeners to examine a bag's contents without opening it.

American Airlines donated eight of the roughly \$300,000 scanners to TSA, including the one at JFK.

"We think in perhaps five years or so, the passengers won't have to take anything out of their carry-on bags," said TSA Administrator David Pekoske, who described the technology as revolutionary.

"What it's capable of doing is detecting a wider range of explosives, which is very important, [as well as] a much lower weight of explosives," Pekoske told correspondent Kris Van Cleave. "They're just much better at detection, so you really get better security faster, essentially."

The TSA plans to have 15 scanners deployed to airports by the end of the year, and are authorized to buy up to 240 in 2019. They'll need about 2,000 to cover every airport checkpoint in the country.

Jose Freig, American Airlines' head of security, told Van Cleave what travelers could come to expect: "Just getting to that point when, in a non-preccheck lane, you're able to keep your liquids, gels, aerosols, and laptops and electronics in your bags. It's a new era, if you will, and we're really excited about it."

The TSA tested the scanners in Phoenix and Boston, and have found them to speed up the screening process by reducing the need for secondary bag checks.

Congress is pushing the TSA to get these out there as quickly as possible, but it'll take years to replace the old X-ray machines at every airport.

## **American Airlines Donated What Kind Of Machines To The TSA?**

[Government Technology](#), July 24, 2018

Working in partnership with American Airlines, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) hopes to begin using the machine in late July at the John F. Kennedy Airport in New York, The Verge reports. This new luggage scanner uses the same technology as a medical CT scanner to produce a 3-D image of the inside of a bag. According to TSA Administrator David Pekoske, the CT scanner is not only more effective than traditional X-ray technologies but could also make security checkpoints easier for passengers.

This is because it can detect a wider range of explosives, particularly lower weight ones. Passengers would therefore no longer be required to remove items like liquids, aerosols and laptops from their bags. "They're just much better at detection, so you really get better security faster, essentially," Pekoske told CBS News.

## **2 Chinese Flight Attendants Fined For Trying To Smuggle Turtles From U.S., Ordered Out Of Country**

[Pasadena \(CA\) Star-News](#), July 23, 2018

LOS ANGELES – Two flight attendants for a Chinese airline were fined Monday and ordered to leave the United States within 72 hours for attempting to smuggle dozens of spotted and box turtles in carry-on bags from Los Angeles to China.

Chinese nationals Huaqian Qu, 41, and Renfeng Gao, 31, pleaded guilty last month in downtown Los Angeles to a federal conspiracy charge, which carries a possible penalty of up to five years behind bars, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office.

As part of their probationary sentences, U.S. District Judge S. James Otero ordered that both defendants pay \$5,500 each to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service before returning to their native China within three days. Two Chinese flight crew members are charged with attempting to smuggle U.S. turtles, some of the spotted variety, through LAX. The

turtles apparently command high prices in Asia. Above, a spotted turtle is seen at the Buffalo Zoo in a 2007 photo by Dave Pape. (Photo is released in the public domain via Wikimedia Commons)

Qu and Gao — who worked as crew members for China Eastern Airlines — declined to make statements prior to sentencing.

In rejecting the prosecution's argument for 10-month prison sentences, Otero said the smuggling offense "was not violent," the defendants were "cooperative" in interviews with investigators and they maintained good behavior while on bond since their arrests in May.

Probationary sentences with fines were "sufficient," the judge said.

Qu and Gao were arrested at Los Angeles International Airport with 10 protected spotted turtles and 14 box turtles hidden in pillowcases and plastic bags packed in Qu's China Eastern work luggage. Gao carried 21 spotted turtles in his carry-on bag for the 13-hour flight to Shanghai.

Prosecutors said they suspect Qu and Gao of having successfully run turtles out of LAX on multiple occasions previously. But on May 12, a random X-ray luggage check conducted by the Transportation Security Administration detected "unusual round objects" in Qu's carry-on bags during a routine inspection, according to an affidavit filed in the case.

The TSA inspector who flagged the luggage said he recognized that the bags contained turtles, "based on his enthusiasm for turtles as a teenager," the document states.

The smuggling attempt left two of the 45 reptiles dead and two others sick, prosecutors wrote in sentencing papers that pointed out the cruelty to animals of such schemes.

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Profit appeared to be the motive. The defendants paid about \$200 per animal in the Los Angeles area and expected to pocket as much as \$41,000 for the lot in Asia, where there is a "robust" market for turtle species native to the United States, according to court papers. Spotted turtles, for example, are highly prized in China based upon the number and size of spots on their shells, experts said in court documents.

Such turtles are protected by the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora — known as CITES. The agreement regulates international trade in more than 36,000 species of plants and animals, including their products and derivatives. CITES uses a permit system to ensure that trade in listed species is legal and traceable.



"Neither defendant ... nor anyone else had obtained the required export permit for these CITES-protected turtles or filed a declaration for exporting these animals," court documents said.

## **IMMIGRATION POLICY**

### **Judge Denies Trump Bid To Toss Immigration Protections Case**

By Alanna Durkin Richer

[Associated Press](#), July 23, 2018

BOSTON (AP) — A federal judge on Monday denied the Trump administration's bid to throw out a lawsuit that alleges its decision to end special protections shielding Haitian, Salvadoran and Honduran immigrants from deportation was racially motivated.

U.S. District Judge Denise Casper's ruling means the case that seeks to block the administration from terminating temporary protected status for thousands of immigrants from those three countries can move forward. She also rejected the administration's request to remove Republican President Donald Trump as a defendant in the case.

"This represents an extremely favorable outcome for the Honduran, Haitian and Salvadoran immigrants who have felt completely blindsided by the federal government's refusal to maintain this humanitarian protection program and who are firmly convinced that racism and discrimination were at the heart of the decision to terminate TPS," said Ivan Espinoza-Madrigal. He's executive director of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Economic Justice, which filed the lawsuit in February.

Casper denied one of the group's requests for relief but allowed all other claims to move forward, saying the immigrants have made plausible constitutional claims.

"This Court finds that the combination of a disparate impact on particular racial groups, statements of animus by people plausibly alleged to be involved in the decision-making process, and an allegedly unreasoned shift in policy sufficient to allege plausibly that a discriminatory purpose was a motivating factor in a decision," Casper wrote.

The Department of Justice didn't immediately respond to an email seeking comment.

Last month, a federal judge in San Francisco refused to throw out a similar lawsuit challenging the administration's decision to end the protections for immigrants from El Salvador, Haiti, Nicaragua and Sudan.

Temporary protected status provides safe havens for people from countries experiencing armed conflicts, natural disasters and other challenges.

The program has been continuously extended for Haitians since a 2010 earthquake. Protections for El Salvadorans have been in place since earthquakes

devastated the country in 2001. For Hondurans, the program known as TPS has been in place since 1999 after Hurricane Mitch devastated the Central American nation the year before.

The Trump administration argues that conditions in the countries have improved and that the program was not designed for the protections to be continuously extended.

Follow Alanna Durkin Richer at <http://twitter.com/aedurkinricher> and read more of her work at <http://bit.ly/2h1hzDb>.

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### **U.S. Judge Allows Lawsuit Over End Of Immigrant Protections To Proceed**

By Nate Raymond

[Reuters](#), July 23, 2018

Full-text stories from Reuters currently cannot be included in this document. You may, however, click the link above to access the story.

### **Ex-Diplomats Warn Pompeo Against Eliminating U.S. Refugee Bureau**

By Lesley Wroughton

[Reuters](#), July 23, 2018

Full-text stories from Reuters currently cannot be included in this document. You may, however, click the link above to access the story.

### **Pompeo Urged To Not Cut State Department Refugee Office**

By Didi Martinez And Nahal Toosi

[Politico](#), July 23, 2018

Several former U.S. diplomats and national security officials are urging Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to keep the State Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, amid fears he could cut the office, according to a letter viewed by POLITICO.

The letter, which was sent Monday to Pompeo and several leaders of Congress, is signed by 43 former government official and humanitarian organization heads.

One former U.S. official who signed the letter — but asked not to be identified by name — said Pompeo was moving toward a decision soon about the bureau's future, revisiting an apparent decision made by former Secretary of State Rex Tillerson to keep the bureau.

The State Department did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

"We're very concerned that one of the options will be the elimination of the bureau and we're very concerned for two reasons: The symbolic message that is sent when you

eliminate a bureau that has refugees in its name. And No. 2 the fact that those authorities under the direct control of the secretary of state give the secretary enormous leverage of political issues of conflict and humanitarian aid," the former U.S. official said.

The letter is signed by people who served under both Republican and Democratic organizations such as David Kramer, former assistant secretary of state for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor; former undersecretary of state for Political Affairs Wendy Sherman; and former deputy secretary of State William Burns.

"We understand you may shortly be considering the status of the Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, and we are deeply concerned by recent reports that the Bureau may be eliminated," the letter reads. "We believe this would be an error of grave proportion, and we would urge close consultation with the U.S. Congress before such a critically important measure is even considered."

Similar to a letter issued to Tillerson last year, the letter goes on to list the role that the department plays in advancing U.S. international interests, including providing intelligence on key countries, giving the U.S. more control over humanitarian aid and keeping refugee migration at bay. All of which, the documents signees say, departments with similar jurisdictions such as Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Health and Human Services, cannot do.

The Trump administration overall has faced fierce criticism for its stance on refugees, including through its travel ban on certain Muslim-majority countries and its now-reversed policy of separating migrant families at the border.

The letter called the possible elimination of the bureau "ironic" given the bipartisan support for the 1980 Refugee Act, which provided a system under which refugees can enter the country, and general support the bureau has enjoyed under previous administrations.

The letter was also sent to Sen. Bob Corker, Sen. Lindsey Graham, Rep. Ed Royce and Rep. Hal Rogers, all Republicans who chair foreign relation committees on their side of Congress.

## **Orlando Officials: No Questions About Immigration Status**

[Associated Press](#), July 23, 2018

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Municipal workers, including police officers, in one Florida city won't be able to ask about someone's immigration status under a new policy.

The Orlando City Council on Monday unanimously approved the resolution known as the Trust Act.

A coalition of immigration and civil rights groups that advocated for the resolution says Orlando is the first city in the South to adopt such a resolution.

Other U.S. cities that have passed similar measures are Philadelphia, Chicago and Boston.

Before the council meeting, Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer said he had heard heartbreaking stories about the effects federal government's immigration policies and he wanted Orlando to send a message of inclusiveness.

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## **Orlando Approves Trust Act Policy To Cheers Of Immigration Activists**

By Ryan Gillespie

[Orlando \(FL\) Sentinel](#), July 23, 2018

Orlando officials unanimously approved a policy Monday prohibiting city employees — including police officers — from asking a law-abiding person's immigration status.

Throngs flooded a City Council meeting, with many choosing to testify to the council, and dozens more spilling into the lobby of City Hall. After the vote, a roaring applause echoed throughout the building.

The vote solidified a city policy and pertains to anyone reporting a crime or who witnesses criminal activity as well as persons pulled over for non-criminal traffic violations.

"This is an emotional day because it's a powerful day," said Rasha Mubarak, a facilitator of the Trust Orlando Coalition, who pushed for the policy. "When we say that we're making history, we're not just making history, we're on the right side of history."

The resolution — formally called the Fair Treatment for All Trust Act Policy — was backed by more than three dozen social-justice and immigration organizations, including the Florida Farmworkers Association, the Orange County Classroom Teachers Association and Mi Familia Vota.

Mayor Buddy Dyer and commissioners Tony Ortiz, Regina Hill and Patty Sheehan appeared at a news conference and rally on the steps of City Hall prior to the meeting.

"If you simply report crime or you have a traffic stop, you will not be led to deportation," Dyer said. "The Orlando Police Department is not in the business of immigration enforcement...we're not protecting people that are committing crimes, but we're not looking for people based on immigration status."

A lone protester voiced his displeasure at the lunchtime media event, and again after the commissioners voted. At the meeting, the man approached the dais but was removed from the meeting by police officers.

Officers led the man outside, and a few minutes later he was allowed to leave.

Wendy Doromal, president of the Orange County Classroom Teachers Association, supported the policy on behalf of the union.

"Our doors must remain open to every person regardless of their immigration status, religion, language, race, sexual orientation, gender identity or country of origin," Doromal said.

Ortiz said the city wanted to be sure undocumented immigrants aren't being preyed upon by criminals because they "think that you're not going to cooperate with law enforcement."

The resolution passed by the city also reiterates that the city won't violate federal immigration laws, and Ortiz said Orlando isn't seeking to become a so-called sanctuary city.

Karen Caudillo, a Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals recipient said the policy will ease her fears.

"I have no words to express the gratitude of just knowing that I can go to the grocery store, I can go to school, I can go to the doctor and I won't be afraid of having an interaction with a police officer and being scared of being sent back to a country that I've never been to," Caudillo said.

Have a news tip? You can call Ryan at 407-420-5002, email him at [rygillespie@orlandosentinel.com](mailto:rygillespie@orlandosentinel.com), follow him on Twitter @byryangillespie and like his coverage on Facebook @byryangillespie.

## **Democratic Lawmakers Say ICE Charging Parents To Call Their Kids Violates Immigration Standards**

By Brianna Sacks

[BuzzFeed](#), July 23, 2018

After being separated from their children at the border and detained in facilities scattered across the US, some migrant parents have to pay steep fees to speak with their children, a policy that a group of Democratic lawmakers have called "shameless" and "morally reprehensible."

In a letter sent to US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) obtained by BuzzFeed News, about 150 Democratic members of Congress argued that the practice of charging "exorbitant" prices to place phone calls from immigrant detention violates ICE's national standards.

Detained immigrants are able to call specific lawyers and government help lines for free, according to the agency's telephone access standards.

It also states that facilities should enable detainees to make direct or free calls to "immediate family or others for detainees in personal and family emergencies" and that they should have "equitable access to reasonably priced telephone services" — which the letter from Congress points out.

For anyone else, detainees or the people they are contacting are responsible for the cost of the phone call.

Trying to find and talk to your child after being forcibly separated at the border, often resulting in weeks of no-contact, should quantify as an emergency, the lawmakers say.

"In June at the GEO immigration detention center in Aurora, Rep. Luis Gutiérrez and I visited with three devastated mothers. Through their tears, they described horrors that no parent should ever have to go through," said Rep. Jared Polis, a Democrat from Colorado who helped pen the letter and is currently running for governor. "The mothers recounted not knowing where their children were, followed by only minimal contact with them, being forced to pay high costs for what should be free phone calls."

The letter comes as the US government scrambles to reunify about 2,000 children still separated from their parents as a result of Trump's "zero tolerance" immigration policy before July 26, as ordered by a federal judge. On Friday, the Justice Department confirmed that about 450 children have been placed back with their parents, though how the administration plans to execute and streamline the process still remains murky.

After the president issued an executive order in June halting "zero tolerance," distraught parents detailed the confusing and frustrating experience of trying to find and get in touch with their children, many of whom are now scattered across the US, through a government-sponsored 1-800-number.

Once they do track them down, many detainees are paying anywhere from 25 cents to \$8 a minute to talk to their children, according to the Texas Tribune and NPR — a steep price for cash-strapped detainees to repeatedly pay. When they can afford to, the calls are short and sparse, usually lasting about 10 minutes.

As the Tribune has reported, a few major, private companies dominate the telecommunication services across the country's vast web of detention and correctional facilities, greatly profiting from the influx of detained immigrants funneled into centers to await immigration proceedings.

Forcing anxious parents, many of whom have no idea where their children are and have not seen them for weeks, to pay the steep rates exploits a vulnerable population and "is clearly against agency standards," the Congress members wrote.

"As if the Trump administration's decision to separate families wasn't cruel enough, the idea there would be any barriers to basic communication is outrageous, and must be corrected immediately," Sen. Patty Murray, who helped spearhead the letter, told BuzzFeed News.

The Democrat from Washington said she, too, visited mothers in a detention center in her home state and heard heartbreaking stories about their difficulties trying to talk to their children.

In one court filing from June 22 that was cited by the Tribune, a Guatemalan mother at a Texas detention center described trying to get in contact with her three children, ages 2, 6, and 13, but “the calls are very expensive.”

“I am only to call when I have money, but when I do not have money, I am not able to communicate with my children,” she declared, adding that the calls are sporadic and often the phones do not work. “In one month I only received one free call from the center.”

ICE and the Department of Homeland Security, which oversees the immigration agency, have vehemently denied reports that parents have to pay to call their children while they are in the government’s care.

“Calls between detained parents in ICE custody and their children are facilitated at no charge to detainees. This is the case for children who are currently in the custody of the U.S. Health and Human Services’ Office of Refugee Resettlement (HHS/ORR) and those who have been placed with a sponsor by HHS,” Katie Waldman, a spokeswoman with DHS, said in a statement to BuzzFeed News.

Since children in government custody do not have 24-hour access to phones, calls with their parents have to be coordinated by ICE and Health and Human Services officials, she added, stressing that they are arranged “at least twice a week” and are free. In some cases, parents can video conference with their children.

When asked about reports detailing high, per-minute fees for phone calls to children, Waldman agreed it was “possible” that occurred when parents were trying to call children who were no longer in federal custody.

However, lawmakers say that detained parents shouldn’t have to pay at all to get ahold of their children.

“Parents fleeing violence to save their children’s lives should be treated like refugees and protected, but instead we treat them like profit centers to be nickled and dimed,” said Rep. Luis Gutierrez from Illinois. “As a country we can do better and we must.”

## **Dem Lawmakers Slam ICE For Forcing Parents To Pay ‘Exorbitant’ Fees To Call Their Children**

By Justin Wise

[The Hill](#), July 23, 2018

A group of 150 Democratic lawmakers have called out Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) for a policy that allegedly forces parents to pay “exorbitant” fees to speak to their separated children over the phone, according to BuzzFeed News.

The group of Democrats argue that ICE policy allows the imposition of steep prices to place phone calls in immigration detention facilities, BuzzFeed reported, citing a letter lawmakers sent to the agency.

The Democratic lawmakers called the policy “shameless” and “morally reprehensible” in the letter, and argue it violates ICE’s national immigration standards, according to the news report.

“We write to urge you to implement immediate, nationwide changes that will permit individuals who have been separated from their children to make phone calls regularly and at no expense to them,” the lawmakers write.

BuzzFeed also reported that ICE and the Department of Homeland Security, which oversees the immigration agency, have denied reports that parents have to pay to call their children while they are in the government’s care.

When contacted by The Hill, the agency responded by saying “ICE is committed to connecting family members as quickly as possible after separation so that parents know the location of their children and have regular communication with them.”

“Calls between detained parents in ICE custody and their children are facilitated at no charge to detainees,” it added.

Under ICE’s telephone access standards, detained immigrants are able to call specific lawyers and government help lines for free, BuzzFeed reported.

Those standards say detention facilities must enable direct or free calls to “immediate family or others for detainees in personal and family emergencies.” It also says that they should have “equitable access to reasonably priced telephone services.”

BuzzFeed cited reporting by The Texas Tribune and NPR showing detainees paid from 25 cents to \$8 a minute to talk to their children.

The lawmakers argue that parents trying to speak with their children after being separated should qualify as an emergency.

“These mothers, fathers, babies and young children came here with nothing to their names, seeking refuge. We shouldn’t allow them to be exploited by private corporations in order to simply locate and speak with their children by phone,” Rep. Jared Polis (D-Colo.), who helped write the letter, told BuzzFeed.

“We shouldn’t be kicking migrant parents while they’re down, we should be helping them to reunite with their kids now.”

The letter comes as the Trump administration continues to face major scrutiny over how it intends to reunify the thousands of families that were separated at the border because of President Trump’s “zero tolerance” immigration policy.

A judge ordered the Trump administration to complete the reunifications of immigrant children between the ages of 5 and 17 with their parents by July 26. The administration had until July 10 to reunite immigrant children under the age of 5 with their families.



In a court filing last Thursday, Trump officials said that the administration has reunited 364 immigrant children between the ages of 5 and 17 that it identified as being separated from their parents at the border.

## Texas Business Coalition Opposes State's Bid To End DACA Program

By Bob Sechler

[Austin \(TX\) American Statesman](#), July 23, 2018

The state's Republican leadership is once again crossways with some prominent Texas business organizations and companies — this time over the fate of thousands of immigrants brought to the United States illegally as children.

A pro-business coalition has weighed in to oppose a federal lawsuit filed by Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton. The suit seeks to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, an initiative during President Barack Obama's administration known as DACA that has provided young immigrants with work permits and protection from deportation.

Ending the program will cause "irreparable harm to the Texas economy" and reduce economic activity in the state by more than \$6 billion annually, the business coalition said in a legal brief filed in federal court in Houston over the weekend. The brief estimates the number of DACA recipients living in Texas — who are known as Dreamers — at more than 126,000.

The coalition includes 10 business organizations across the state, including the Texas Association of Business and the Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. Four companies — Southwest Airlines, United Airlines, Marek Brothers Construction and International Bancshares Corp. — also have signed on.

The group is reminiscent of one that formed last year during the high-profile fight over the so-called "bathroom bill," when the Texas Association of Business helped organize opposition to a push by socially conservative GOP lawmakers, including Gov. Greg Abbott and Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, to regulate where transgender people can use the bathroom. The effort to regulate transgender bathroom usage ultimately failed.

Jeff Moseley, chief executive of the Texas Association of Business, said Monday that the similarity of the battle lines is coincidental and not indicative of a widening rift with the state's Republican leadership.

"From time to time, we may be looking at policy from different angles," Moseley said. But he noted that his organization is on the same side as Paxton in opposition to a pending city of Austin ordinance requiring that private employers provide sick leave to workers.

Paxton declined to comment Monday on the business coalition's opposition to his DACA lawsuit, which was joined by six other states when it was filed in May. A spokesman for Abbott, who as Texas attorney general in 2014 filed a multi-state suit to prevent a DACA expansion, didn't respond to a request for comment.

Members of the Texas business coalition opposed to Paxton's effort to end DACA contend it makes no sense to deport young people who have become productive U.S. citizens after being raised here and educated in public schools funded by U.S. taxpayers.

The group's legal brief cites a number of examples, including 27-year-old Austin real estate agent Diego Corzo, a native of Peru who was brought to the United States by his parents when he was 9.

Corzo, a graduate of Florida State University, told the American-Statesman that he and his business partner sold more than 65 homes last year, and he noted that he paid about \$33,000 in federal income taxes.

"There is so much uncertainty now, it makes it hard for me to continue to grow my business or expand it because I really don't know what is going to happen," he said Monday.

"I am employing Americans and I am paying taxes," Corzo said. "I don't think it would be a smart decision for the United States to take (DACA recipients) out now when we are able to give back and pay taxes to the country that has given us so much."

The business groups agreed, saying among other things that such a move would cost the state's employers access to skilled workers.

"Dreamers are ... valued employees for businesses throughout Texas," their legal brief said. "They are employed across industries, including filling critical needs in the health and education fields and providing much-needed bilingual skills to the Texas community."

Southwest Airlines, based in Dallas, said in a prepared statement Monday that it counts DACA recipients among its "valued customers, employees and fellow members of the Texas business community."

United Airlines echoed that sentiment, urging "the state of Texas to reconsider its position and support DACA" in a prepared statement. United is based in Chicago but is a large employer in the Houston area.

Then-President Obama announced the DACA program in 2012 through an executive order, saying he wanted to protect people who were "Americans in their heart, in their minds, in every single way but one: on paper."

But Paxton and other opponents insist that Obama exceeded his authority, usurping lawmaking power that the Constitution designated for Congress. The lawsuit seeks a federal court order declaring DACA unconstitutional and stopping the federal government from issuing or renewing DACA permits.

It doesn't seek to remove deportation protections from current DACA recipients or to rescind already issued permits, Paxton has said.

Regardless, Moseley said the notion of ending DACA is misguided and will hurt the state's businesses.

"The reality is we have spent taxpayer dollars training these children who came into our economy," Moseley said. "These are trained workers now who are stepping up and contributing. They are a very wonderful asset that we have."

## **Swanson Joins Nationwide Lawsuit To Protect DACA**

[Associated Press](#), July 23, 2018

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — Minnesota Attorney General Lori Swanson is joining a nationwide lawsuit seeking to protect a program for immigrants brought to the country illegally as children.

President Donald Trump ended the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program earlier this year and called on Congress to replace it. Former President Barack Obama created the program in 2012 to give hundreds of thousands of immigrants permits to work.

Swanson says she wants to "stop the rug from being pulled out" from under 800,000 so-called Dreamers in the program. She filed a brief Monday in the federal case surrounding Trump's decision to rescind the program.

Swanson is running in a three-way Democratic primary for governor on Aug. 14. She has been criticized by some Democrats as not being aggressive enough in challenging the Trump administration.

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## **Retiring Republican Partly Blames GOP Hardliners For Immigration Failure**

By Jeff Cirillo

[CQ Roll Call \(DC\)](#), July 23, 2018

As prospects dim for Congress to pass immigration reform before the term's end, one retiring Republican involved in last month's compromise effort says his own party's hardliners are partly to blame.

"Political demagoguery on both sides" stamped out the recent push by House leadership to pass a comprehensive immigration bill, Texas Rep. Joe Barton said.

"I think Republicans who keep shouting 'amnesty, amnesty' don't help the cause," Barton said. "And I think the Democrats being so insistent that they don't want to fund anything for border security or the wall — [both parties] just sit there and yell at each other."

Barton also said "we're shooting ourselves in the foot as Republicans not to address the immigration issue" — but both

parties' leadership, including President Donald Trump, "don't appear to be willing to really sit down and come up with something that both sides win and both sides give a little bit."

The congressman's comments critical of his own party came in a July 12 interview, after the House overwhelmingly rejected a so-called compromise bill in June despite weeks of negotiations in the GOP conference.

The Texas congressman, one of the most senior members of the House with 34 years of experience, has championed a bipartisan middle path on immigration that would increase border security, including funding for a southern border wall, while also extending protections for undocumented immigrants covered under the Obama-era DACA program.

Immigration is one of Barton's last legislative efforts in Congress; he's retiring at the end of this term after an anonymous Twitter account posted a nude photo Barton sent to a woman while separated from his second wife. Ignoring extremes

Long considered one of the Hill's most conservative members, Barton has become a bridge between Republican leadership and his party's conservative wing. But he now finds himself closer to the middle on immigration compared to many of his Republican colleagues, and he's frustrated with the fringe.

Ron Wright, the Republican candidate likely to replace Barton in Congress, would join a growing number of Hill Republicans who oppose a deal to stop the deportation of "Dreamers" — undocumented immigrants who were brought into the country as children. Barton has been one of his party's most vocal supporters of protections for Dreamers.

"I don't see any reason to make an exception. If they were brought here as children, they're still illegal," Wright said in January.

Asked about Wright's opposition to a deal on Dreamers, Barton said the primary candidates to replace him had been swayed by the party's most extreme voters.

"The people who are showing up at the rallies, if they're all yelling 'don't let anybody into this country, kick everybody out that came here illegally,' that moves first-time candidates that way, because that's what they're hearing."

Candidacy and representation are two different things, Barton said.

The next person to represent the 6th District of Texas will have to represent everybody in the district, not just Republican primary voters, he said. He noted the growing number of Hispanic businessmen and women, educators and citizens in the increasingly diverse district are "not nearly as strident as the most vocal Tea Party activist in these primaries." Bipartisanship in decline

This year's vitriolic fight over immigration reflects a broader trend in both parties over the last 15 years, according

to Barton — politicians are listening more and more to their fringes.

Social media has made news and information instantly available and from a range of sources with vested political interests, Barton said. Partisan online media, which has moved people to contact their congressmen on highly politicized issues, also amplifies the extremes.

“The political parties have reacted to that, and it’s moved the Republican party more to the right and the Democratic party more to the left,” according to Barton, leaving few in the middle.

As a result, there are fewer and fewer people left in Congress with the experience or political will to forge bipartisan compromises. His advice for his successor — and the president — is to seek the middle ground more often.

“Things that become law and stay law are always bipartisan,” Barton said.

## **New York Nonprofit Cayuga Centers Takes Care Of Migrant Kids — And Triples Revenue**

[CNBC](#), July 23, 2018

NEW YORK — The children arrive in groups, sometimes many hours after even an adult’s bedtime.

Without their parents, often knowing no English, they’re brought by federal agents on journeys as long as 2,000 miles from the southwest U.S. border to social services programs operated by nonprofit, religious or private agencies and companies.

Since 2014, thousands of children and their siblings have made the crossing. Coming mainly from Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador, some were sent by their parents to escape purported violence or other threats. Their illegal trips were aided by smugglers and typically ended with the children in U.S. custody.

Officially classified as Unaccompanied Alien Children, thousands of the young migrants have been brought to New York City facilities of a company called Cayuga Centers. The nonprofit has received millions of dollars from the federal government during the past several years to place the children in foster care until they can rejoin parents or other relatives.

This year, a new and different wave of undocumented migrant children have joined the federal caravans traveling to Cayuga Centers and other social services providers. They were separated from their parents at the border by immigration agents for weeks as President Donald Trump’s administration enforced a “zero tolerance” policy against illegal immigration.

These children also went into foster care at Cayuga Centers, often with their parents having no idea that the youngsters had been transported thousands of miles away. A federal court filing late last week said 364 of 2,551 children

between ages 5 and 7 who had been identified for reunification had rejoined their families.

The latest young migrants included a 9-year-old Honduran girl and her 5-year-old sister. They were separated from their mother, Denise Santos, at the southwest border in June after the three crossed into the U.S. Santos asked for asylum and was detained at the Port Isabel Detention Center, near Los Fresnos, Texas.

“We’re trying to get them back together,” Ricardo de Anda, a Texas attorney helping the family, said in a recent telephone interview.

Amid nationwide protests and court battles over similar family separations, the federal government faces a court-ordered July 26 deadline to complete reunification of all the families. As that process unfolds, Cayuga Centers, like similar social services agencies, has become the focus of an unwelcome spotlight as Americans debate potential solutions for illegal immigration.

“We have nothing to do with the separations. When we take the kids, the kids are already in federal custody,” Cayuga Centers’ CEO and President Edward Myers Hayes said in a recent telephone interview.

David Connelly, who chairs the nonprofit’s board of trustees, said he initially feared some might blame Cayuga Centers for the separations or accuse the company of “abetting” the government’s policy. He said Hayes satisfied his concerns by asking a question: “If we don’t take care of these children, who will?”

If Cayuga Centers is doing good by serving migrant children, it is also doing well for itself. Last year, the nonprofit said it had become “the largest provider of transitional foster homes for Central American children taken into custody while crossing the U.S. southern border.”

Federal contracts more than tripled Cayuga Centers’ annual budget in recent years as the company provided foster care, physical and mental health screening, schoolteachers and made efforts to return the children to their families.

That income, accounting for what Connelly said was roughly half the nonprofit’s budget, has made Cayuga Centers a major provider and financial beneficiary in what has become a nearly \$1 billion annual U.S. industry caring for migrant children.

Grants by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for shelters, foster care and other services for these children have jumped from \$74.5 million in 2007 to \$958 million in 2017, according to a recent analysis by The Associated Press. A surge of undocumented migrants

The still-unfolding crisis began during the Obama administration with a surge of Central American children and families who illegally crossed the southwestern U.S. border.

In all, nearly 250,000 migrant children from Central America were apprehended along the southwest border



during the federal fiscal years 2013 through 2017, U.S. Customs and Border Protection data show.

Since 2002, youngsters detained after illegal U.S. border crossings have been placed in the Unaccompanied Alien Children Program, which is managed by the HHS Office of Refugee Resettlement.

Fewer than 8,000 children were served annually during the program's first nine years. However, the numbers started rising in the 2012 fiscal year when 13,625 children were referred to the refugee office. The annual total soared to a high of 59,170 in fiscal 2016 before dipping to 40,810 in fiscal 2017, which ended on Sept. 30.

Some children have been placed in a network of more than 100 shelters in 17 states that are operated by HHS. The youngsters stay there pending release to relatives in the U.S. as they await immigration hearings.

Others have been placed with social services contractors such as Cayuga Centers.

The nonprofit didn't start out to serve undocumented children. Instead, Cayuga Services embraced a revised mission – and financial reward – that arose from the federal fight against illegal immigration.

Based roughly 250 miles northwest of New York City, the nonprofit began its existence in 1852 as an orphanage, according to a history on the company website.

More than a century later, Cayuga Centers expanded its foster care services to serve children placed with the company by family courts in New York. The company added community-based programs and services for people with developmental disabilities during the 1990s. A history of children's services

Four years ago, the company expanded its foster care programs to take in a new group of clients beset by troubles. The federal government issued a request for proposals to serve unaccompanied immigrant children, and Cayuga Centers submitted a plan, said Connelly, the nonprofit's board chairman.

"Leaving the political debate behind, we asked: What is the humane solution to helping a most vulnerable population of children?" Hayes, the company's CEO, wrote in the Cayuga Centers' 2015-2016 annual report.

In all, 4,215 migrant children who crossed the southwestern border illegally were sent to the company's New York City facilities from mid-2014 through mid-2017, before the family separations began, a review of the nonprofit's annual reports shows. More have followed since last summer.

More than 350 Central American children, including one 9 months old, have been brought to the Cayuga Centers facility in East Harlem since the family separations began in April, New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio said after a June 20 visit to the program. In all, 239 children separated from their

parents at the border were at the facility when he visited, de Blasio said.

A judge in California on Tuesday ordered U.S. border authorities to reunite separated families within 30 days, setting a hard deadline in a process that has so far yielded uncertainty about when children might again see their parents. Time

Hayes did not challenge the numbers but said federal privacy restrictions barred him from providing a detailed census.

The federal government has awarded Cayuga Centers nearly \$92.5 million in contract awards to fund shelter services for unaccompanied migrant children, contracting records show. The awards started in 2014 and are scheduled to continue through the start of 2020, the records show.

The company is paid only for the children who actually receive services and the numbers vary, said Hayes, who added: "We're a far cry from maximizing our contract dollars."

The nonprofit listed a nearly \$28.3 million grant for unaccompanied children's services on the 2016-2017 federal tax return filed with the New York State Attorney General's Charities Bureau.

The federal funding powered Cayuga Centers' total annual revenue from \$15.6 million in the nonprofit's 2012-2013 fiscal year to nearly \$48.7 million in 2016-2017, according to its most recently available federal tax returns.

"We haven't done it for the money. We think we're good at the work, and we think it's good work to do," said Hayes. Despite the federal income, he added that the nonprofit would likely report a budget deficit for its just-completed 2016-2017 fiscal year.

As the nonprofit's revenue rose, Hayes' total annual compensation increased from \$186,632 to \$244,743, a 31 percent jump.

His total income is comparable with compensation for the highest-paid executives at similarly sized nonprofits, said Daniel Borochoff, president of Charity Watch, a nonprofit sector watchdog. Connelly, the Cayuga Centers board chairman, said in a written statement that Hayes' compensation was "below that of many executives of comparably sized agencies." Foster care model

Cayuga Centers places the children it serves in the homes of bilingual foster families by night and provides education in the nonprofit's school programs by day.

The Department of Health and Human Services' inspector general's office has not audited Cayuga Centers' contract services and has no immediate plans for a future evaluation, the agency said.

Despite an initial rebuff when he tried to see the Santos family sisters, de Anda, one of the attorneys working to reunify the family, said a social worker at Cayuga Centers' East Harlem facility "appears to be taking care of my client's children well."

However, the younger girl told him her older sister had suffered from a nosebleed and earaches and also cried at night, the attorney said. Cayuga Centers denied his request for a meeting with the foster mother, de Anda said.

"They're not giving us information that's normally received," de Anda said. "If you're the mother and someone else is taking care of your children, you'd like to sit down with that lady and find out what's going on."

Cayuga Centers said that allowing a meeting would have violated a federal Office of Refugee Resettlement regulation.

Separately, a video that was secretly recorded inside the nonprofit's East Harlem facility last month provided ammunition to critics of the family separation policy and also provided a glimpse of Cayuga Centers' services. Obtained by MSNBC, the video showed a young girl identified only as Jessica, tearfully speaking in Spanish as she said she wanted to talk to her mother.

Hayes said federal regulations barred him from discussing the status of individual children. "Kids are different, and they're doing differently," he said.

First Lady Melania Trump makes second trip to the Mexican border this week since President Donald Trump signed the executive order. Veuer's Chandra Lanier has the story. Buzz60

The company also issued a statement with its own perspective on Cayuga Centers' services and personnel.

"At any hour of the day, staff are there to ensure that newly arrived youth are fed nutritious food, provided essentials such as clothes and toiletries, educated about their rights, seen by a medical professional to address any health concerns and quickly transferred to the comfort of a foster home in which they are treated with care and respect," the nonprofit said.

However, David Hansell, who heads New York City's Administration for Children's Services, told a City Council hearing late last month that Cayuga Centers staffers "described the depth of trauma, mental health and other issues these children are experiencing."

Hansell pledged his agency's help to provide support services.

Taking a trust-but-verify position, de Anda said he doesn't "necessarily push back" against the company's statements about its quality of care for migrant children. "But I think they need to be more transparent about what they're doing and what's happening to the children," he said.

## **Sen. Gillibrand Says The 'First Thing' Democrats Should Do If They Take Back Congress Is Abolish ICE**

By Laurretta Brown

[Townhall](#), July 23, 2018

Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) said Sunday that the "first thing" Democrats should do if they flip the House and Senate is to "get rid of" Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

"So when we flip the House and flip the Senate, I think the first thing we should do is deal with the children who have been separated from their families at the border. I think we should get rid of ICE," Sen. Gillibrand said at New York City's OZY Fest 2018.

Gillibrand proposed that "we should separate out two missions, the anti-terrorism mission, the national security mission, and then on the other side make sure you're doing, looking at immigration as a humanitarian issue."

"These are civil issues, these are families," she emphasized, "look at it as the economic engine that it is, that immigration is our strength, our diversity is what makes our country and our economy so strong."

Sens. Gillibrand, Kamala Harris (D-NY), and Liz Warren (D-MA) have all recently called for abolishing ICE. The subject emerged following Democratic socialist Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's stunning primary victory over Democratic Caucus Chair Joe Crowley (D-NY). Ocasio-Cortez is calling to abolish ICE as part of her campaign platform.

Gillibrand said that another thing Democrats should address immediately if they flipped the Senate and House was gun reform.

"I think we should pass the gun reform issues within the first month — all of them," she said. "Universal background checks, anti-trafficking, making sure people can't buy bump stocks, large magazine clips, all that work."

She went on to say that Obamacare had been too much of a compromise with Republicans and Democrats should've attempted to pass Medicare for all.

"I don't know why we didn't start with Medicare for all," she said. "It was such a mistake to build Obamacare on a very moderate, very almost conservative model of placing it on top of the for-profit insurance industry."

## **IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT**

### **Cuomo Pardons 7 Facing Deportation For Past Convictions**

[Associated Press](#), July 23, 2018

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — Seven people who faced deportation because of crimes committed years ago were pardoned Monday by New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo.

The seven individuals include a mother of three, a grandfather and a man battling cancer. All seven had minor, non-violent convictions that in some cases date back decades but their criminal records made them targets for deportation, Cuomo said. He said the pardons would make it

harder for federal immigration officials to continue deportation proceedings.

"We're doing everything we can to frustrate their efforts," Cuomo said of the Trump administration and its aggressive immigration enforcement.

Cuomo has issued similar pardons before, including 18 in December.

The list includes six men and one woman. They include a 57-year-old grandfather who was convicted of drug possession and intoxicated driving nearly 20 years ago and a 41-year-old man from who tried to become a citizen only to learn he was ineligible because of a 2009 conviction for petit larceny. Both men are from the Dominican Republic.

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## **Cuomo Pardons Immigrants Facing Deportation For 'minor Criminal Convictions'**

By Max Jaeger

[New York Post](#), July 23, 2018

Gov. Andrew Cuomo on Monday pardoned seven more people who are facing deportation for previous "minor criminal convictions."

It marks the third time Cuomo has used his power to grant clemency to immigrants facing ouster from the US — including last December, when he pardoned 18 individuals.

The move is a clear shot at President Trump's "zero tolerance" immigration policy.

"While President Trump engages in policies that rip children out of the arms of their mothers and tries to ramp up the deportation of New Yorkers to advance his political agenda of hate and division, we will protect our immigrant communities," Cuomo said in a statement.

Many of the convictions were for drug possession or sale.

Those pardoned include 53-year-old Dominican national Ludames De La Cruz, who has stayed out of trouble since a drug conviction 17 years ago and is now struggling with cancer, according to the governor's office.

"He is now battling cancer and if deported to the Dominican Republic he would have no support there as his siblings and nieces and nephews, extended family all live in New York City, where they visit and offer support during his illness," Cuomo's office said in a statement.

Also pardoned was Dominican national Carlos Suarez, 41, who learned that he was ineligible for citizenship as he was heading to a September 2017 swearing-in ceremony because of a 2009 petit larceny conviction. He has also stayed out of trouble since, according to Cuomo.

The pardons "will make immigration-related relief possible, if not automatic," his office said.

Last summer, Cuomo pardoned Carlos Cardona, a former Ground Zero rescue worker facing deportation who was convicted of a nonviolent drug crime in 1990.

## **Frank Barker Has Feared Deportation For A Decade. Now He Has A 2nd Chance.**

By Elise Foley

[Huffington Post](#), July 23, 2018

Frank Barker was cleaning up around his home in the Bronx when he got the call he'd been waiting for: New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo planned to pardon him for 2009 convictions that had him at risk of deportation. Barker, who's 52 and came to the U.S. from Barbados at age 9 as a legal resident, has spent nearly a decade in fear that he would be deported away from his work and family. Now he's hoping his deportation order, based on crimes he's now been pardoned for, will be tossed out.

"It hasn't quite hit," Barker said. "I'm only going to be safe when I'm standing before the judge and the judge says, 'OK, this is done.'"

Cuomo, a Democrat, pardoned Barker along with six other immigrants on Monday. Under President Donald Trump, immigrants are increasingly turning to politicians on the state and local level for help, particularly to governors who have pardon power. Cuomo granted 19 pardons to immigrants facing possible deportation last year. Democratic Govs. Jerry Brown of California, John Hickenlooper of Colorado and Terry McAuliffe of Virginia have done the same.

It doesn't always work. The government at times still can deport individuals, depending on their crime and whether they held legal status before the conviction. Immigration and Customs Enforcement has continued to fight to deport some immigrants even after they were pardoned.

But for many immigrants with criminal convictions, a pardon is their best shot at getting a chance to stay in the U.S.

"Since the Trump administration is so openly hostile to immigrants at all levels ... what's happening is the immigrant rights [movement] is defaulting to the states," said David Leopold, an immigration attorney who is not representing any of the immigrants pardoned. "You see the states, attorneys general and governors saying, 'Somebody's got to protect these people.'"

Barker was suffering from drug addiction in 2008 when he was arrested for several crimes, including possession of stolen property, identity theft and tampering with evidence. He spent about eight months in jail at Rikers Island. ICE picked him up at Rikers in July 2009, and he spent the next year in detention, where he studied law in the detention center's library every day. He had never gone through the naturalization process because he had never been in much trouble and didn't realize how important it would be if he ever

was. I would be lying to you if I said I didn't dream of this moment. Frank Barker

Legal permanent residents can be deported only under specific circumstances, including if they are convicted of certain crimes, such as violent offenses or those related to drugs or firearms. A judge issued a final order of removal for Barker in January 2010, but the government didn't deport him right away. Instead, he was released under supervision in July 2010 and required to check in regularly with ICE.

Barker, who has not taken illegal drugs since his 2008 arrest, moved back to New York, where he felt he could get better treatment and services for HIV, which he contracted about 15 years ago. He is a certified substance abuse counselor and works for a nonprofit where he helps handle medical care for ill residents of New York. He's passionate about his work but feels he could do even more if the threat of deportation weren't hanging over his head, making him wonder if he'd have to leave the clients who rely on him.

Barker's next step is to try to have his deportation order canceled. His next check-in with ICE is scheduled for late September.

The pardon, and relief from deportation if he gets it, is also a relief to his parents — both U.S. citizens — and other family and friends. One of his goals is to get a month to visit his four children in the Caribbean (he has two in the U.S.). He talks to them frequently but hasn't been able to travel outside the U.S. in years.

"I would be lying to you if I said I didn't dream of this moment," Barker said. "When the judge says this is over, then I can start doing some of the things I want to do."

## **Suit: Colorado Sheriff's Policy Violates Immigrants' Rights**

By Kathleen Foody

[Associated Press](#), July 23, 2018

DENVER (AP) — Another Colorado sheriff's office is being accused of violating immigrants' rights by holding them in jail at the request of federal immigration authorities, according to a lawsuit filed Monday by the American Civil Liberties Union of Colorado.

The complaint filed in Teller County District Court argues that Sheriff Jason Mikesell "continues to hold prisoners in custody after state law requires their release."

Teller County Sheriff Commander Greg Couch said he could not comment on the suit immediately because Mikesell had not received it. The ACLU filed a similar suit in El Paso County earlier this year.

In Teller County, the group is suing on behalf of Leonardo Canseco Salinas, a 44-year-old man who was arrested July 14 on two misdemeanor charges.

According to the lawsuit, Canseco wants to post his \$800 bond but unnamed jail officials said he still would not be

released because of an "ICE hold." According to the lawsuit, the office has no written policies for responding to immigration officials' requests but regularly complies "even after the detainee has posted bond, completed his sentence, or otherwise resolved his criminal case."

"Colorado sheriffs have no authority to enforce federal immigration law," ACLU Legal Director Mark Silverstein said. "Being present in the country in violation of the immigration laws is a civil matter, not a crime."

The group in February filed a similar lawsuit against El Paso County Sheriff Bill Elder on behalf of two men, accusing the sheriff's office of holding people "for days, weeks and even months after state law requires their release." At the time, ACLU officials said they believed the suit was the first legal challenge to the argument that a housing contract could allow sheriffs to hold people for immigration authorities.

Elder's office argued that it had an agreement to house people suspected of being in the country illegally on behalf of federal Immigrations and Customs Enforcement.

A judge ruled in March that Elder cannot continue holding people once they have paid bond or otherwise resolved their state cases.

That suit also has been granted class action status, expanding it to any current and future inmates of El Paso County's jail.

Courts in several states have ruled that local law enforcement cannot hold people for immigration authorities without violating their Fourth Amendment right against unreasonable search and seizure.

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## **Groups Sue Miami-Dade County Over Immigration Holds**

[Associated Press](#), July 23, 2018

MIAMI (AP) — Immigrants and immigrant rights groups are challenging Miami-Dade County's policy of holding immigrants for federal officials.

WeCount, the Florida Immigrant Coalition and others filed a federal lawsuit Monday.

The lawsuit challenges the county's decision to comply with federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement detainer requests. It claims the immigration detainers are unconstitutional, among other reasons, because people are being held without probable cause.

Miami-Dade County had previously been a so-called sanctuary city, limiting its cooperation with federal immigration officials. That changed last year after President Donald Trump and the U.S. Department of Justice threatened to withhold federal funding from such local governments.



The county attorney's office didn't immediately reply to a message from The Associated Press.

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## Undocumented Immigrants Sue Miami-Dade Over Trump Detainers

By Brenda Medina And Douglas Hanks

[Miami Herald](#), July 23, 2018

Two undocumented immigrants picked up in Miami-Dade for driving without valid licenses are suing the county for turning them over to immigration authorities under a 2017 policy switch to avoid a promised crackdown by President Donald Trump on so-called "sanctuary" jurisdictions.

The immigrants in the new federal suit — which does not name them — joined immigration groups in a broad denunciation of the policy implemented by Mayor Carlos Gimenez days after Trump took office and ordered federal agencies to withhold funds from state and local governments that don't cooperate with immigration authorities.

Miami-Dade had been considered a "sanctuary" jurisdiction for immigration offenders under the Obama administration because the county's policy was to decline detention requests from Washington. The "detainers" keep someone booked on unrelated local charges in jail for an extra 48 hours — plus weekends and holidays — to give immigration officers extra time to take the suspect into federal custody.

The new lawsuit by co-plaintiffs We Count! and the Florida Immigrant Coalition joins a nationwide legal challenge of the federal detainer policy, while seeking to deflate the Gimenez administration's argument that the extended detentions bolster public safety. The two defendants are described as local business owners who entered the county legal system through traffic infractions and wound up in federal custody on their way to deportation. SIGN UP

The first plaintiff, identified only as "C.F.C." in court papers, is described as the mother of eight children who is a member of WeCount!, an immigrant advocacy group, and owner of a local produce business. She was arrested on May 12 after being involved in a minor accident in the parking lot of a B.J.'s in Homestead.

The suit said occupants of the other car yelled "Go back to Mexico!" to the woman, who was with her youngest son, age 5, and a pregnant daughter. Homestead police arrived and arrested the woman for driving without a license. The woman's family posted her bail later that day, but Miami-Dade's Corrections Department held her for an additional 48 hours until agents for Immigration and Customs Enforcement picked her up on May 14, according to the suit.

We Count! arranged an interview with C.F.C.'s long-term boyfriend, who is also undocumented and asked that he be identified only by his first name, Andrés. Sitting at the family's home in South Dade, Andrés said family members had no choice but to drive without licenses, since public transportation isn't an option in that remote stretch of South Florida farmland. Like most states, Florida does not allow undocumented immigrants to obtain driver's licenses.

"It's an obligation, a necessity. You have to take the children to school, you have to go out and buy the food, you have to go to work," he said. "The bus does not pass by here."

Fearing deportation himself, Andrés has not visited C.F.C. at the federal facility in Pompano Beach where she's being held. Their three American-born children, all under 18, are getting rides with family friends to see her.

The other plaintiff is identified as "S.C.C.," and described as a man who owns a landscaping company that has operated in South Florida for 15 years. The business, which employed a dozen people, shut down after the plaintiff's June 6 arrest after a traffic stop for driving with a suspended license and driving without a valid license.

The suit says Miami-Dade did not grant the defendant pretrial release because ICE had issued a detainer request for him. He appeared in court on the license charge July 16, and a judge set the bail at \$2 — one dollar per charge. Bail was posted July 20, but Miami-Dade did not release the defendant, according to the suit. A lawyer for the plaintiffs on Monday said "S.C.C." was picked up by immigration officers over the weekend.

In February 2017, Miami-Dade commissioners endorsed Gimenez's directive to local jails, which reverted the county to its pre-2013 policy of accepting all detainer requests. After the 2017 switch, Miami-Dade was detaining about one person a day under the new policy, and the lawsuit says more than 1,000 people have been held on detainers.

The lawsuit claims the detainers themselves are unconstitutional, since they cause someone to be held in custody after they're otherwise free to go on the criminal charges that brought them into jail. The plaintiffs want to make the lawsuit a class action, potentially representing all people held by the detainers.

A spokeswoman for Gimenez had no comment on the suit.

Andrés said his partner, C.F.C., joined the lawsuit hoping that it would help her case and other immigrants in similar situations.

"There are many people who are going through the same thing as us or who are now in fear that it could happen to them," he said. "We hope that something good comes out of this."

According to a copy of the lawsuit, C.F.C., arrived in the United States with a 15-year-old son, seeking refuge from an

abusive relationship. A few years ago C.F.C.'s adult son was murdered after being deported to their home country in Central America, the lawsuit says.

"If she is deported, I don't even know what we would do, I don't know what could happen," Andrés said.

## **'He's Destroying American Lives': Family Blames Trump For Midwest Mom's Deportation**

By Matt Sedensky

[Orlando \(FL\) Sentinel](#), July 23, 2018

It's almost as if Letty Stegall is there, back home in the United States, beside her daughter to prod her awake for school. When her husband goes to the grocery store, she fusses over the list with him. At the bar she helped run, she still gives regulars a warm welcome, and around the dinner table at night, she beams when she sees what her family managed to cook.

But Stegall's face only appears on a screen, and her words come in unreliable cell connections and a barrage of texts. Lives once lived together are divided by some 1,600 miles. A woman who married an American and gave birth to an American and who came to think of herself as American, too, is now deported to her native Mexico.

"I wish I was there. That's all that I want," she says of her life in Kansas City, Missouri. "I want my family back."

As the United States takes a harder line on immigration, thousands who called the country home are being forced to go. Often, they leave behind spouses and children with American citizenship and must figure out how to go on with families fractured apart. Studies have found an estimated 8 million to 9 million Americans — the majority of them children — live with at least one relative who is in the country illegally, and so each action to deport an immigrant is just as likely to entangle a citizen or legal U.S. resident.

Stegall's deportation means she could be banned from the U.S. for a decade. She prays paperwork seeking to validate her return through her marriage could wind through the system within two years, but there is no guarantee.

For now, she is a stranger in the vaguely familiar land she left as a 21-year-old in 1999, her phone and laptop the only windows to a life that's no longer hers. When her 17-year-old daughter, Jennifer Tadeo-Uscanga, arrives home from school, Stegall is there on FaceTime to greet her. She watches streaming feeds from 16 cameras at the bar she manages remotely. She gives Steve Stegall, her husband of six years, a goodnight kiss by pressing her lips to her cellphone screen.

The four-dimensional, analog world she loved has been flattened and digitized. She recognizes how odd it all may seem, but she wonders what other choice she has. Should she pull Jennifer from the only country she's ever known,

where her dreams of college and career seem so achievable? Should she ask Steve — born and bred in Kansas City — to abandon their business and home and come to a place where he can't speak the language and his safety might be jeopardized by drug cartels?

The questions hang in the thick summer air.

"I lost everything," she says. "It's just me."

Stegall walks down streets of modest, brightly painted homes, past a tree dangling with yellow guavas and beside a butcher shop where red sausages are strung up like Christmas garland. Palms splash against clear blue skies, and swaths of purple flowers hold court below.

Beauty can be found everywhere in Boca del Río, a small city along the Gulf of Mexico, but it's hard for Stegall to see. Even as she rounds the bend and a striking panorama of blue sea appears before her, it does little to lift her. She splashes the salt water on her face and rubs it on her arms. This would be a nice vacation, she says, but it's all a cheap copy of the life she had a few months ago.

Stegall grew up two hours from here in Cosamaloapan, a flat, crop-dotted part of Veracruz, the state that hugs a broad chunk of Mexico's eastern coast. Her parents' furniture business afforded a comfortable existence, but drawn by the stories of a cousin who settled in Overland Park, Kansas, Stegall was convinced there was greater opportunity for her in the U.S. She paid a smuggler \$3,000 to lead her across the Rio Grande.

She was caught and returned to Mexico but crossed successfully a day later. When she made it to the Kansas City area, she found a job busing tables, working her way up through a string of restaurants to become a server and bartender and manager.

She got married and had Jennifer, but later divorced. Then she fell in love with Steve, who came to see Jennifer as his own. Stegall mastered the language and watched her paychecks grow. She and Steve bought a home, and soon Stegall became the heart of The Blue Line, the bar they ran together. When the Olympics aired, she'd drape herself in red, white and blue, and when the national anthem sounded, she'd nudge her husband to remove his hat as she stood solemnly, goose bumps covering her body.

All the while, her parents told of kidnappings and decapitations back in Cosamaloapan, of the cartel taking over and the family being forced out. They deserted their home and business, and fled for Boca del Río. She thanked God she had escaped. She didn't think she'd ever return.

In Kansas City, the fear of being caught that Stegall had when she first arrived receded with each passing year. Donald Trump's campaign and his tough rhetoric on illegal immigration piqued her attention and stirred a little worry, but he talked about catching rapists and murderers and gang members, and that wasn't her. She carried her Social



Security card, obtained through her marriage, work permit and driver's license everywhere just in case.

She had just started backing out of the driveway to head to the gym on the morning of Feb. 26 when three cars careened in. Agents hopped out, opened her door and told her she was under arrest. She urged them to look at her paperwork and thought it was all a mistake.

"I'm married to an American citizen," she pleaded. "I have a citizen daughter."

Six years earlier, police had pulled her over a few blocks from her house and charged her with misdemeanor drunken driving. The arrest made authorities aware that she was in the U.S. illegally. Stegall spent a month in jail and her case went into the immigration system.

She cries as she recounts the incident, mindful she might not be in this situation had she not gotten behind the wheel. She sees that she is paying the price for her mistake but is also convinced that her deportation was unfair.

She wonders why the government's crackdown efforts seem to focus on her and other low-level criminals instead of the "bad hombres" that Trump said he'd banish. Don't her daughter and husband have a right to keep their family intact? Don't her years of paying taxes, of learning English, of living an otherwise pristine life count for anything?

"They didn't take out the people who are dangerous," says Stegall, who is 41. "The murderers are still there. The gangsters are still there. The rapists are still there."

While U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement often touts the criminal convictions of those rounded up, arrests of migrants with convictions for offenses such as driving under the influence (59,985 in fiscal year 2017) outnumber those of immigrants previously convicted for homicide, sexual assault or kidnapping. (Those collectively totaled 6,553 in 2017.) Meantime, arrests of immigrants without criminal convictions have increased significantly since Trump took office.

Officially, Stegall's deportation process began under President Barack Obama. He became known as the "deporter in chief" for presiding over so many removals but changed tactics in the final two years of his presidency, when ICE was directed to exercise discretion to defer action on certain migrants with standing removal orders, including those with citizen children and living in the U.S. prior to 2010.

A DUI arrest was generally seen as "a midlevel priority," says Randy Capps, an expert on deportation at the Migration Policy Institute, and people like Stegall often were allowed to stay in the latter part of Obama's presidency if they had regular check-ins with ICE, paid processing fees, were fingerprinted and stayed out of trouble.

An executive order issued by Trump changed that, effectively declaring any immigrant without legal status subject to arrest. Even the path once seen as simplest to

legal status — a legitimate marriage to a citizen — no longer is always enough to stave off deportation.

Stegall didn't apply for a green card after getting married because her former attorney told her she had little to worry about with a citizen husband and daughter and because, under U.S. law, she likely would have had to return to Mexico and wait out the process there.

Four days after her February arrest, Stegall won a stay of deportation in court pending a hearing. But ICE already had her shackled aboard a flight to Brownsville, Texas, where she was directed to cross by foot back into Mexico. Her family, relieved by the victory in court, didn't even know she was gone.

"The new normal, really, is rush and push people out of the country, regardless of what's going on," says Stegall's current attorney, Rekha Sharma-Crawford.

In a split-level house on a neat, tree-shadowed street in Kansas City, every wall, table and shelf is covered with photos, but one of the smiling faces is absent. In that absence, plants wilted and died, and clothes came out of the wash tinged in blue. Dinnertime, once an ever-changing parade of feasts that charmed the palates of Steve and Jennifer, has become a spartan affair of the easily achievable. Family celebrations now typically include tears.

"She's not dead," Jennifer, a native of the Kansas City area, says of her mother. "But she's not here."

Stegall's husband is depressed and has taken to clutching a pink teddy bear in bed, when he's not hustling to maintain their business. Stegall's in-laws, who built lives in Kansas City like their parents before them, have put off retiring to their lake house because they're needed at the bar to fill in for the woman they consider a daughter.

Most of all, though, a teen who thinks of her mom as her best friend has been left without her confidante.

When Jennifer's birthday came, just after Stegall was deported, the teen got her favorite dish of fettuccine alfredo at Olive Garden and the Versace perfume she wanted as a present. Her mom appeared on FaceTime to sing "Happy Birthday," but it wasn't enough to soothe the sadness.

As prom approached, she wished her mom was around to shop with, and on the big night, when she needed a last-minute hem, there was no one to come to the rescue.

Each momentous occasion that awaits Jennifer — senior year, Christmas, graduation, college — is tainted because the person closest to her won't be there to share in them.

"My God," Jennifer wrote to the immigration judge handling her mother's case, "my own country has been the one that has caused me pain."

Before Stegall's deportation, her lawyer argued Jennifer was suffering depression and anxiety, wrought with fear her mother would be taken from her. Steve counts the moment he had to tell Jennifer that ICE had picked up her mother as

the worst of his life. They bawled as the teen buried her face in her stepfather's shoulder.

"We were best friends," he says. "When somebody gets yanked away from you one day, it's just a huge hole in your life. You don't have her to come home to ... just seeing her around the house, hearing her laughing, you know? Watching her smile."

At The Blue Line, where the ceiling is hammered tin and the walls are covered in hockey skates, jerseys and sticks, the bartender this night is wearing a white T-shirt that says "#BringLettyHome" and a flag-festooned box at the end of the bar is labeled "Letters for Letty."

"Life here is incomplete without you," reads one. "A couple tacos and a few drinks at happy hour isn't the same without your smile," says another. "You don't know me but I was sick when I heard your story," goes a third.

Jennifer Rice, a waitress who has taken over some supervisory duties, struggles to capture all that Stegall's absence means. Customers ask about her daily. Her long list of responsibilities has shifted. The friend so many came to count on has been taken away.

"All of a sudden, she's gone," Rice says. "You just can't put it into words."

A moment later, she can't help herself, and she's dialing Stegall. "I miss you and when I talk about you, I get upset. It makes me emotional," Rice says as she begins to cry. "I love you so much." Back in Mexico, Stegall takes her glasses off to wipe tears away.

Many in the bar this night, including Steve's parents, gave their vote to Trump. They liked his promise to bring jobs back to the U.S. and the vow to make trade with China fairer. And they supported him when he said criminal immigrants would be deported. They just didn't consider Stegall one, even if she came to the country illegally.

"I've always been proud to be an American," says Shirley Stegall, Steve's mom. "But now I'm ashamed."

Jerry Rosetti, sipping scotch and water near the box of letters to Stegall, doesn't think she should have been targeted and calls the situation "a raw deal." But he still supports the president and still thinks illegal immigration is wrong.

"I would trade places with her in a minute," he says. "She shouldn't be in Mexico. She should be right here, right now."

The dichotomy angers Steve. When someone balances compassion for his wife with support for Trump, he's confounded.

"He's destroying American lives," Steve says of the president. "How can you do this? How can you do this to your own American people?"

Time plays funny tricks. Stegall remembers those early days in Kansas City, when the winter cold seemed unbearable, the numbers on thermometers and price tags so foreign, the food off-putting. She struggled to communicate,

repeatedly chided with a similar refrain: "This is America. Speak English."

Now she misses the seasonal shifts, it's Celsius and pesos she can't seem to grasp, it's the American adaptations of Mexican food that she craves — and those American souls she wants to surround herself with. She sometimes finds herself struggling for a word or slipping into a Spanglish hybrid.

"Tía, estás en Mexico," a nephew interjects. "Auntie, you're in Mexico."

She returns to the house in Boca del Río, the one she shares with eight others, after her afternoon routine. And as night draws closer, the computer before her glows. She's watching the bar again, spotting friends, questioning why a customer hasn't gotten his food, noting when a light indicates a phone call is coming in but not being answered.

"I wish I could go inside my laptop," she says.

Seeing her former life unfold on a screen keeps her busy and gives her back a version of what was taken away. And so the monotonous mass of moments that form a daily routine continue as if she never left.

"An hour is a month. A month is a year," she says.

Midnight nears and she has crawled into bed in a small room she took from her nephew, with walls of cement and a big mirror rimmed with family photographs. She's lying down, wearing a black Coors Light tee and leopard-print pajama pants, when her daughter's FaceTime call comes in.

They talk about dinner and share gossip about an acquaintance's impending marriage. They end as they always do, with a string of prayers and "I love yous."

She and Steve trade texts about whether to watch Netflix together but apart, before deciding they're too tired for a show. They go through the banality of their days, joke about losing weight and recount his visit to a psychiatrist before holding their lips to the screen to say goodnight.

She steals a last look at the bar's cameras, where the crowd is thinning. She's too tired to keep watching, so she closes the screen and slips off to sleep.

In her dreams this night, she's back in her house in Kansas City, with her soaring cathedral ceilings and the stainless steel refrigerator covered in magnets. Her dogs, Blue and Bella, are just back from doggy day care, and one of Blue's back legs is injured. Jennifer is angry, having told her mother not to send the dogs there. Her husband is bickering with her over something she won't be able to remember the next day.

For all the seeming strife of it, when she awakens and recalls it, she is happy. It was a good dream. She was back home.

Associated Press writer Allen G. Breed contributed reporting from Kansas City, Missouri. Read more of AP's coverage of the reverberations of the Trump administration's policies on immigration here.

## ICE Escapee May Walk Free After Feds Botch Case

By Emily Saul And Kate Sheehy

[New York Post](#), July 23, 2018

The feds just can't hold on to this guy.

Brooklyn prosecutors used the wrong statute to charge a violent immigrant who humiliated three ICE agents by escaping custody at Kennedy Airport — and now the ex-con may not have to spend a day in jail for his criminal exploits, The Post has learned.

Ex-con Mohamadou Mbacke was being deported back to his native Senegal on March 27 when he infamously gave his ICE handlers the slip at JFK.

Surveillance video caught the uncuffed criminal scampering past shops and around different floors before ducking out of employee-only doors to a yellow cab and freedom.

Mbacke, who is in his early 30s, remained on the lam for three days before he was nabbed in a Starbucks in Chicago — after futilely trying to pass himself off as an immigrant from Ecuador named “Antonio.”

He was brought back to New York City and charged with a misdemeanor, convicted and faced spending up to a year behind bars before being deported.

But the statute under which he was charged only applies to escapees involved in deportation proceedings before mid-1997 — and Mbacke's expulsion case began 16 years later, in 2015, Judge Sanket Bulsara wrote.

There's a statute to fit Mbacke's crime — and it's actually a stiffer felony, carrying an up to 10-year sentence. But “the Government did not charge Mbacke under that law. Instead, it charged Mbacke under a statute that does not apply to him,” the judge pointed out.

Bulsara said he was sympathetic to the feds' intent, particularly given how embarrassing Mbacke's run for freedom was.

“The Government's decision to charge Mbacke with a crime was understandable: Mbacke was captured on video running through and out of JFK away from ICE officers,” the judge wrote.

But he said he had no choice but to acquit the man.

The court “vacates the jury verdict and enters a judgment of acquittal,” Bulsara wrote, adding, “The Court reaches this decision grudgingly, knowing that it results in overturning a jury verdict in a criminal case, something done only in the most exceptional circumstances.”

Mbacke's lawyers had challenged his conviction based on the legal flub.

The feds told The Post on Monday that they will re-try Mbacke on the appropriate felony charge.

Meanwhile, Mbacke remains in lock-up in Brooklyn.

## CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

### U.S. Breaks Up Fake I.R.S. Phone Scam Operation

By Christine Hauser

[New York Times](#), July 23, 2018

The fraudulent calls came suddenly. A person posing as an Internal Revenue Service or immigration official was on the phone, threatening Americans with arrest, deportation or other penalties if they did not immediately pay their debts with prepaid cards or wire transfers.

Thousands of people in the United States complied with the demands to pay between 2012 and 2016, the Department of Justice said.

But Justice Department officials say they have broken up what appeared to be the nation's first large-scale, multinational operation that bilked Americans of “hundreds of millions of dollars” over four years, using call centers based in India to route the money to conspirators in the United States.

In an announcement on Friday, the department said 21 people living in eight states — Illinois, Arizona, Florida, California, Alabama, Florida, New Jersey and Texas — were sentenced last week in Houston to prison for up to 20 years for their role in the scheme.

Two other conspirators in Illinois were sentenced in February to between two years to just over four years for conspiracy, and a third person in Arizona was given probation in a plea agreement, it said.

In addition, 32 contractors in India involving five call centers in Ahmedabad, a city in western India, have been indicted on wire fraud, money laundering and other conspiracy charges as part of the operation, the department said.

They have yet to be arraigned, it said.

The sentences “represent the culmination of the first-ever large scale, multi-jurisdiction prosecution targeting the India call center scam industry,” Attorney General Jeff Sessions said in the statement.

The investigation took years of work by Justice Department, Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and Treasury Department officials, the statement said.

The Internal Revenue Service has repeatedly warned Americans, especially just before the April deadlines to file taxes, about scams like this one.

For example, in tips on how to avoid fraud, the I.R.S. says it does not demand immediate payment of debts using a specific method, such as a prepaid debit card, gift card or wire transfer.

Generally, the I.R.S. will first mail a bill to a taxpayer who owes money, allowing for questions or a formal appeal. It will not threaten to bring in the police, immigration officers or

other law-enforcement authorities, or revoke licenses or immigration status, the I.R.S. says.

"Threats like these are common tactics scam artists use to trick victims into buying into their schemes," the I.R.S. says.

This scheme affected some of the most vulnerable members of the public, such as older Americans and immigrants, the Justice Department said.

It involved defendants who were of Indian origin living in the United States and coordinating with the call centers in India, federal officials said, citing information obtained partly through their plea agreements.

Workers at the call centers impersonated officials from the I.R.S. or U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, threatening people in the United States with arrest, imprisonment, fines or deportation if they did not pay alleged debts to the government, the Justice Department said.

They chose their victims through information obtained from "data brokers" or from other sources, the department said.

The people who were duped were instructed to pay using prepaid cards or to wire money. The call centers then turned to a network of "runners" based in the United States, who typically used the cards to purchase money orders that were deposited into bank accounts.

Runners also redeemed funds from wire transfers with false names and identification documents, or exploited the funds through gift cards and Apple iTunes cards, it said. The runners would earn a fee or a percentage, it said.

"This type of fraud is sickening," said Ryan Patrick, the United States attorney for the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas in Houston, where last week's sentences were imposed.

Twenty-two of the defendants sentenced last week were told to pay restitution of about \$8.9 million to victims who could be identified, the department said. The sentences also included judgments of over \$72.9 million.

The department named all 24 defendants, but it highlighted the role of the three men with the longest sentences.

Miteshkumar Patel, 42, of Illinois, was responsible for laundering between \$9.5 and \$25 million in his role overseeing a Chicago-based network of runners, the department said. He was given a 20-year sentence.

Hardik Patel, 31, of Illinois, was given more than 15 years in prison for wire fraud conspiracy as a coordinator with call centers in India, laundering between \$3.5 million and \$9.5 million, it said.

In Texas, Sunny Joshi, 47, was sentenced to about 12 years in prison for money laundering of between \$3.5 million and \$9.5 million, the statement said.

## **VA Missionary Sexually Abused Haitian Kids, Prosecutors Say**

By Joe Marusak

[Charlotte \(NC\) Observer](#), July 23, 2018

A Virginia man was sentenced to 23 years in prison Monday for traveling to Haiti to sexually prey on children in remote villages, prosecutors said.

James Daniel Arbaugh, 40, of Stuarts Draft pleaded guilty in federal court Feb. 6 to one count of traveling in foreign commerce to engage in illicit sexual conduct with a person under the age of 18, according to a news release Monday night by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Court records show Arbaugh traveled to remote villages as a Mennonite missionary to "befriend and groom children," according to ICE's news release.

He has lived in Haiti for about 15 years, regularly traveling back to the United States, according to court documents cited by ICE in its announcement of Arbaugh's sentencing. SIGN UP

As part of his guilty plea, Arbaugh admitted that in 2016 in Haiti he "engaged in illicit sexual contact with a minor under the age of 12 by touching the minor's genitals under the minor's clothing," ICE's news release says.

Arbaugh's arrest and conviction followed an investigation by ICE's Homeland Security Investigations division.

"James Arbaugh was a wolf in sheep's clothing: He posed as a selfless missionary, when in reality, he was exploiting his position to prey on and sexually abuse vulnerable children in one of the most impoverished areas of the world," Brian Benczkowski, assistant U.S. attorney general, said in the news release.

"The defendant abused his position of trust to prey on vulnerable victims, and their lives will never be the same," Thomas Cullen, U.S. attorney for the Western District of Virginia, said in the release.

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## **SECRET SERVICE**

### **How To Stop Skimming Thieves At ATMs And Gas Pumps In Texas**

By Anna M. Tinsley

[Fort Worth \(TX\) Star-Telegram](#), July 23, 2018

Consider yourselves warned.

Thieves are busy installing credit card skimmers at gas pumps or ATMs to capture information from consumers' credit and debit cards.

Police in Haltom City are looking for a man they believe put a skimmer on an ATM inside a 7-Eleven Convenience Store on Airport Freeway.

"Please be vigilant when using your card, even at trusted locations," Haltom City Police wrote Tuesday on Facebook, noting that the skimming device at this ATM has been removed. "If something seems wrong, let someone know."

This is the latest warning from local, state and federal officials drawing attention to the devices that can capture between 30 and 100 card images a day, according to the National Association of Convenience Stores.

Thieves take the information gained and use it to print fake credit or debit cards.

Even the U.S. Secret Service weighed in on skimmers this month.

"Credit card fraud is a federal offense, carrying stiff penalties including heavy fines and lengthy prison sentences," according to a Secret Service statement.

Since Jan. 1, 2017, 34 complaints about skimmers at Tarrant County gas stations have been filed with the Texas Agriculture Department — and countless more with local law enforcement agencies.

"This is pretty much organized crime," Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller has told the Star-Telegram. "We've found them just about all over the state." Tarrant complaints

Among the suspected local locations for skimmers: a Quick Way on South Collins in Arlington, Tommy's on Highway 377 in Benbrook, a Murphy Oil on Texas 121 in Bedford, a Valero on East Harwood in Euless, 7-Eleven stores in Grapevine, Keller, Arlington and Fort Worth, and a Valero gas station on Bryant Irvin Road in Fort Worth, state records show.

Last year, skimmers were found at four pumps at Hawk's Pantry #8 on W. Randol Mill Road in Arlington. Five complaints had been made about skimmers there since last June. One came as recently as earlier this month, state reports show.

Skimmer Complaints in Tarrant County This map shows gas stations with skimmer complaints in Tarrant County made to the Texas Agriculture Department between Jan. 1, 2017 and July 16. Markers colored in red indicate multiple complaints. Click on markers for more details.

But agriculture department officials don't always find the devices by the time they arrive.

"Most people don't complain about possibly getting skimmed until long after they pump gas and they see something suspicious on a bank statement," said Mark Loeffler, a department spokesman. "A number of things can happen between (the) complaint and TDA looking for the skimmer."

Local law enforcers may have found and removed the devices. And sometimes, the people who put them on the machines come back and remove them themselves. Safety tips

Law enforcers offer a variety of tips to keep people safe from skimmers at gas pumps.

Among them:

- Use only the newest gas pumps. Older ones are easier to open, which makes them more vulnerable to having skimmers installed inside.

- Look for damage to the credit card reader or see if it's loose. Report problems to workers. If a dispenser door has security tape that looks broken or tampered with, report that to a store employee as well.

- Pay cash inside, use mobile pay or use your credit card. Officials say they'd rather consumers use anything other than debit cards to safeguard bank accounts. And monitor bank accounts for any suspicious activity.

- Use the pumps closest to the store. And before filling up, check your phone to see if a lot of numbers are trying to connect to Bluetooth. That's a giveaway there might be problems because some of those devices need Bluetooth signals to gain data from the skimmers.

Officials recommend everyone get a receipt after filling up. That will help you know which station to contact if there's a problem.

And anyone who finds problems should call the Agriculture Department at 1-800-835-5832 as soon as possible.

## Honor The Sacrifices Of The Secret Service

By Washington Examiner

[Washington Examiner](#), July 22, 2018

Throughout President Trump's trip across Europe this month, the U.S. Secret Service kept him and his team secure in several foreign cities and countries. From Brussels to London, and from rural England and Scotland to Helsinki, hundreds of special agents and officers ensured the president could do his job.

One of them, 42-year-old Secret Service special agent Nole Remagen, died on duty. Assigned to national security adviser John Bolton's protective detail, Remagen suffered a stroke last weekend while standing post. He was cared for by fellow agents and a White House doctor, but Remagen died later in a hospital in the Scottish city of Glasgow.

This 19-year Secret Service veteran deserves remembrance, not simply for his ultimate sacrifice, but also for his service and that of his family. Secret Service duties require long periods away from home. Agents miss children's birthdays, weddings, anniversaries, and a multitude of national holidays. And that's only half the story. Because agents and officers are also ready at all times to leave their families forever if needed. If, for example, this country was targeted by a nuclear attack, agents assigned to the president and those in the line of succession would need to evacuate the people they protect to secret and secure bunkers. The difficulty for agents doing this would be exacerbated by



knowledge that while saving their boss they'd be leaving families to almost certain death.

Consider the sacrifice and patriotism here. Willingness to lose your own life and the lives of those most dear to you in order to serve your country is a level of honorable duty barely to be contemplated.

Remagen, who was a Marine before he joined the Secret Service, embodied that patriotism. He was a man of courage and dedication held in the highest regard by his comrades.

Yet the Secret Service cannot stop to mourn.

Reform is underway, but the agency still lacks sufficient personnel to fulfill all its duties. That's partly because there are unnecessary security details, and also because there are many different threats to cover. Today, agents and officers such as Remagen must grapple with gunmen, suicide bombers, knife attackers, chemical weapons attackers, and aircraft-based attackers; and these can be highly organized, whether they represent a state or are working for a non-state group. Agents must be as ready for one idiot with a gun as they are for 30 foreign special forces soldiers armed with anti-tank weapons.

That mission causes immense stress, for it requires relentless attention to detail in chaotic public settings. It would be one thing if the president were to stay cocooned in the White House all day, but the president must be seen in public. For us, those interactions generate interesting news material. But for agents, every outstretched hand or hand in a pocket is a possible threat. By their dedication, Secret Service staff manage these concerns like no other protective agency on Earth. Day in and day out, agents and officers like Remagen keep the executive branch safe.

The Secret Service motto is "Worthy of trust and confidence." It's true, hard won, and retained only with vigilance and unrelenting effort. It must be lived every day. As with special agent Nole Remagen, sometimes the life of service leads to the ultimate sacrifice. We should remember Remagen for himself and for what he represents.

## **EMERGENCY RESPONSE**

### **FEMA Didn't Take Congressional Guidance About Pre-Planning For Disasters**

By Courtney McBride

[National Journal](#), July 23, 2018

The Federal Emergency Management Agency acknowledged in a report last week that it was caught flat-footed by Hurricane Maria's rampage through the Caribbean last year. With hurricane season under way—and power barely restored to Puerto Rico—FEMA administrators are reemphasizing the role of private contractors in disaster preparedness.

On Wednesday, FEMA Office of Response and Recovery Associate Administrator Jeffrey Byard told the House Transportation Committee that he wanted to "put more players at the table" by "including the private sector in what we do daily." During his own congressional testimony in April, FEMA Administrator Brock Long also called for putting more "pre-event contracts in place." Long is scheduled to speak Tuesday at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's seventh annual Building Resilience Through Private-Public Partnerships Conference.

Public-private partnerships in disaster management are nothing new. The contracts are usually managed under the Stafford Act, a 1980s-era law that outlines the government's "bottom up" approach to disaster management, which requires the federal government to reimburse state and local authorities for the cost of certain contracts.

After Hurricane Katrina in 2005, however, Congress amended the Stafford Act to encourage FEMA to line up vendors for essential goods ahead of time, in order to avoid shortages and last-minute dealmaking for key goods and services. The reforms required FEMA to submit to Congress a report identifying "recurring disaster-response requirements, including specific goods and services" that the agency "is capable of contracting for in advance of a natural disaster ... in a cost-effective manner." Congress also required FEMA to develop "a contracting strategy that maximizes the use of advance contracts to the extent practical and cost-effective."

Despite the post-Katrina reforms, FEMA encountered many of the same shortages after Hurricane Maria as it did after Katrina. Days before Maria made landfall in Puerto Rico, FEMA's on-hand inventory at the nearby Caribbean Distribution Center showed that key supplies, including cots, tarps, and blue roof sheeting, were almost entirely depleted. Around that time, FEMA had to make "some very quick and crisis-action-planning decisions," Byard testified.

From late August to late November last year, FEMA issued more contract actions than in the entire previous fiscal year. In one contract, FEMA paid \$30 million to a 2-month-old company for emergency tarps, which were never delivered. A Frontline investigation later revealed that one contractor imported tarps from China, in violation of federal contracting rules. In another contract, FEMA agreed to pay \$156 million for 30 million ready-to-eat meals, but terminated the contract after just 50,000 were delivered. The Georgia-based company, Tribute Contracting LLC, was run by a single woman with no experience in large-scale disaster relief. In a third, FEMA paid \$74 million to house aide workers on the Carnival Cruise ship Fascination—at a far higher rate than what the company charged for people actually going on a cruise, records obtained by Miami radio station WLRN show.

As after Katrina, lawmakers have taken modest steps toward reducing the need for these last-minute contracts. The



2018 budget bill allocates \$249 million toward FEMA's Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program, which provides federal grants to mitigation projects. Rep. Lou Barletta tacked language onto the funding bill for the Federal Aviation Administration, which allows the president to set aside pre-disaster grant-funding "equal to 6 percent of the estimated aggregate amount" for each major disaster. Patrick Sheehan called the fund a "game-changer" at last Wednesday's hearing.

But local contracts—which FEMA is obligated to reimburse under the Stafford Act—have also fallen apart. The most damaging was a \$300 million contract between PREPA, Puerto Rico's power management authority, and Whitefish LLC, a two-person company based out of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's hometown in Montana. PREPA's decision to forgo its "mutual aid" authority with mainland electric utilities and opt for the unknown contractor was unusual, to say the least. (Zinke has denied any involvement in the contract.) The company failed to meet deadlines, and the contract was terminated in October. PREPA officials have claimed that FEMA blessed the contract ahead of time, which FEMA officials have denied.

Like other failed contracts, the fallout from Whitefish continues to affect the island. Two private contractors responsible for restoring Puerto Rico's electricity, PowerSecure and Fluor, are now wrapping up work. Local workers have described much of their repairs as faulty, and expect the next major storm to knock out the still-teetering grid. The Army Corps of Engineers shut down one temporary power generator Thursday, and is scheduled to pack up the remaining two in August.

Without stricter oversight of local contracts, in addition to pre-disaster reforms, scandals are likely to recur. On Wednesday, Rep. Dina Titus asked Byard whether he believed FEMA was responsible for the Whitefish disaster. "As far as the Whitefish contract," Byard said, "that's a PREPA question." When he was asked if FEMA's oversight role of private contracts should be reformed, he responded: "I believe we have adequate oversight in place."

## **FEMA Mobile Homes Extended For Louisiana 2016 Flooding**

[Associated Press](#), July 23, 2018

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) — Victims of the August 2016 flooding living in FEMA mobile homes won't have to move out in August, as previously scheduled. Instead, they can stay in the temporary housing units until Jan. 15.

Gov. John Bel Edwards announced the Federal Emergency Management Agency approved his request for an extension of the manufactured housing units available. The Democratic governor's office says FEMA says this will be the final extension granted to the flood victims.

About 600 families remain in the temporary housing nearly two years after the flood, down from about 4,500 households. Nearly all the manufacturing housing units are in Ascension, East Baton Rouge and Livingston parishes.

In a statement, Edwards said the temporary housing "remains necessary for many families as they continue to recover."

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## **COAST GUARD**

### **The Latest: Vigil Held For Family Among Boat Sinking Victims**

[Associated Press](#), July 23, 2018

Branson, Mo. (AP) – The Latest on the deadly sinking of a duck boat in a southern Missouri lake (all times local):

7:50 p.m.

A prayer vigil is being held in an Indianapolis church for members of a family that lost nine of its members when a sightseeing boat on a Missouri lake capsized, killing 17 people.

Hundreds of people gathered at Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church to show their support for the Coleman family.

The Rev. Carl Liggins Sr. says the vigil is being held to be source of encouragement and support for Tia Coleman. Coleman survived the duck boat's sinking at Table Rock Lake near Branson, Missouri. Her husband and three of her children were among her family members who died.

During the vigil, Liggins noted a 13-year-old nephew of Tia Coleman survived and said "we need to praise God for him."

An investigation will look at whether operators of the boat violated Coast Guard-issued limitations by venturing into the water Thursday as thunderstorms threatened and struck the region.

3:45 p.m.

A Missouri lawmaker says change is needed to improve the safety of amphibious vehicles like duck boats after 17 people were killed when one sunk last week at Table Rock Lake near Branson.

Cassville Republican Sen. David Sater on Monday said he's waiting on the results of the federal investigation into Thursday's accident, but pledged that "this issue will not get dropped."

Another local lawmaker, Republican Rep. Don Phillips, says he's not sure whether there's a legislative fix. But he questioned why passengers were not wearing life jackets. He said it would be a commonsense policy to wear them while on the lake.

Missouri law requires boat passengers ages 7 and younger to wear life jackets whenever they're on the water, but commercial vessels like the duck boat that sank are exempt. Three of the people who died Thursday were age 7 or younger.

3:40 p.m.

Several of the 14 survivors of the deadly tourist boat accident in Missouri made it to safety by climbing aboard a nearby excursion boat.

Seventeen people perished Thursday night when a duck boat sank on Table Rock Lake, near the popular tourist town of Branson. The boat was pulled from 80 feet (24 meters) of water on Monday. The National Transportation Safety Board, U.S. Coast Guard and Missouri State Highway Patrol are investigating.

Patrol chaplain Steve Martin met with several survivors since the accident. Many told him they were able to swim to the Branson Belle paddleboat, which was floating nearby when the duck boat sank.

Martin says most or all members of a family of nine, all of whom survived, were able to get to the Branson Belle. He says people on the paddleboat helped pull the swimmers to safety.

It wasn't clear how many of the survivors reached safety on the Branson Belle. Martin didn't know, and a message left with the Branson Belle was not immediately returned.

12:30 a.m.

An investigation of a tourist boat accident on a Missouri lake that claimed 17 lives will look at whether operators of the boat violated Coast Guard-issued limitations by venturing into the water as thunderstorms threatened and struck the region.

The Ride the Ducks in Branson tour on Thursday occurred as the area was under a severe thunderstorm warning. A storm that moved through the area generated near-hurricane strength winds.

U.S. Coast Guard Lt. Tasha Sadowicz says the boat that sank passed an annual inspection in February. But Sadowicz says the "certificate of inspection" places limitations on when boats can enter the water, based on wind speed and the height of waves.

Sadowicz says investigators want to know whether the boat violated the limitations, and whether operators were adequately monitoring the weather.

12:10 p.m.

A Missouri lawmaker says an investigation needs to play out before decisions are made about how to increase the safety of amphibious vehicles like duck boats after 17 people were killed when one sunk last week at Table Rock Lake near Branson.

State Rep. Jeff Justus said Monday that he'll support any needed improvements. But the Branson Republican says it's not yet clear what happened and what could be corrected.

The U.S. Coast Guard and the National Transportation Safety Board are investigating.

Former NTSB Chairman James Hall said Saturday that the boat's design makes the World War II-era vessels prone to the kind of accidents that led to the Thursday's sinking. Hall said the amphibious vessel should be banned from such use.

11:30 a.m.

The U.S. Coast Guard says the National Transportation Safety Board will take custody of the duck boat that capsized in Missouri now that it's been raised from Table Rock Lake.

U.S. Coast Guard Capt. Scott Stoermer spoke to reporters after the boat was raised Monday morning. Seventeen people were killed Thursday when the boat sank amid a thunderstorm that generated near-hurricane strength winds.

Stoermer says it took until Monday to remove the boat from the lake because that's how much time was needed to amass the necessary equipment.

Stoermer says the boat was photographed underwater before being brought to the surface. He said he could not discuss specifics of the boat's condition.

Nine of the people who died belonged to one Indiana family. Others killed came from Missouri, Arkansas and Illinois.

11 a.m.

The website for a tour company whose boat capsized in Missouri says the business is offering to pay for medical and funeral expenses for those aboard.

Thirty-one people were on the amphibious duck boat when it capsized Thursday evening on choppy waters during a storm. Seventeen died. The National Transportation Safety Board and other agencies are investigating.

The website for Ride the Ducks Branson says the company is offering to pay for all related medical bills and funeral expenses, to return all personal items from the rescue scene, and to help with any related travel or accommodations that families need. The company also says it's providing grief counseling for its own employees.

The page says the company's leaders remain deeply saddened, but the company cannot comment further on orders from the NTSB.

10:40 a.m.

A duck boat that sank in southern Missouri, killing 17 people aboard, has been raised.

Live broadcast footage from KYTV showed a crane that is attached to a barge pulling the Ride the Ducks boat from

Table Rock Lake on Monday morning. A boat pushed it toward the shore.

The boat sank Thursday night in churning waves near the tourist town of Branson. The victims were from Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana and Missouri. The boat was submerged in 80 feet (24 meters) of water.

The National Transportation Safety Board and U.S. Coast Guard are investigating what caused the boat to sink.

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10:35 p.m.

Funeral services are set for Wednesday for two Arkansas victims of a duck boat accident in a Missouri lake.

Osceola Church of Christ posted on Facebook that funerals for 15-year-old Lance Smith and 53-year-old Steve Smith will be held Wednesday afternoon. Visitation services will also be held Tuesday evening and Wednesday afternoon at the church in Osceola, which is about 175 miles (280 kilometers) northeast of Little Rock.

The father and son were among 17 people killed when their tour boat capsized on Table Rock Lake near Branson, Missouri, on Thursday. Steve Smith's daughter 14-year-old daughter, Loren Smith, was also on the boat, but survived.

Other victims were from Missouri, Indiana and Illinois.

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10:30 a.m.

Funerals are set for Friday for four of nine Indiana family members who died when a tourist boat sank in a Missouri lake.

The Indianapolis church services will honor the husband and three children of Tia Coleman. She and her 13-year-old nephew were the only members of their family who boarded the duck boat to survive Thursday's sinking. The Colemans were among 17 people killed when the duck boat capsized and sank in Table Rock Lake in Branson during a storm.

Church secretary Lynthia Bruce says a visitation will be held Friday morning at Grace Apostolic Church followed by funerals for 40-year-old Glenn Coleman, 9-year-old Reece, 7-year-old Evan and 1-year-old Arya.

A vigil for the Colemans is set for Monday evening at a different Indianapolis church.

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10:10 a.m.

A Missouri law requires boat passengers ages 7 and younger to wear life jackets whenever they're on the water, but commercial vessels like the duck boat that sank in Table Rock Lake are exempt.

Seventeen people, including three ages 7 or younger, died Thursday when one of the amphibious vehicles sank amid churning waves. The victims were from Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana and Missouri.

Lt. Tasha Sadowicz of the U.S. Coast Guard says commercial vehicles like duck boats are required only to have

enough flotation devices for all passengers and crew, and life jackets that fit every child on board.

An investigation into the cause of the duck boat accident is underway but could take months or longer to complete.

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9:55 a.m.

At least one member died from every family aboard a tourist duck boat that sank in Missouri last week, except for a family of nine that all survived.

Mandi Keller says her family's survival is a "complete miracle." The Kansas City Star reports that Keller wasn't aboard the Ride the Ducks boat when it was swamped during high winds Thursday evening.

Seventeen of the 31 people aboard the duck boat died, including nine of 11 members of another family.

Missouri State Highway Patrol chaplain Steve Martin calls the survival of Keller's family "remarkable." Martin says there is "no explanation" and that the family is suffering from survivors' guilt.

Martin says the family all ended up in different places and found safety in different ways.

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8:30 a.m.

All the people who were hospitalized after a duck boat ferrying tourists sank in southern Missouri have been released.

Cox Health Center Branson said Sunday night in a tweet that it was "happy to announce" all seven had been discharged. Fourteen survived the accident.

Seventeen people died when the Ride the Ducks boat went down Thursday night in Table Rock Lake on the outskirts of Branson after a thunderstorm generated near-hurricane strength winds.

Among those who were hospitalized was Tia Coleman, whose husband, three children and five other relatives died. The Indianapolis woman told reporters Saturday from the lobby of the hospital that she was alone when she came up for air. She recalled praying "let me get to my babies."

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8 a.m.

The U.S. Coast Guard says it is planning to raise a duck boat that sank in a southern Missouri lake during powerful winds, killing 17 people.

The work to recover the Ride the Ducks boat from Table Rock Lake is scheduled to begin 9 a.m. Monday. The boat went down Thursday night in the Branson area after a thunderstorm generated near-hurricane strength winds. The boat is submerged in 80 feet (24 meters) of water.

Divers are expected to swim down to the vessel and connect it to a crane, which will lift it to the surface.

Divers already have recovered a digital recorder from the boat. The National Transportation Safety Board and U.S.

Coast Guard are hoping the recorder will assist in their investigation into why the boat sank.

For the AP's complete story: <https://bit.ly/2Obv0LV>

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## Duck Boat Probe Will Check If Coast Guard Rules Were Ignored

By Jim Salter, Heather Hollingsworth

[Associated Press](#), July 23, 2018

The investigation into the sinking of a sightseeing boat that claimed 17 lives will look at whether operators violated Coast Guard rules by venturing onto a Missouri lake as thunderstorms rolled in, a Coast Guard official said Monday.

More than three days after the deadly accident, a crane attached to a barge pulled the amphibious duck boat from Table Rock Lake near Branson, where it was submerged in 80 feet (24 meters) of water.

Divers attached a sling to the 33-foot, 4-ton vessel, then raised and drained it, officials said. It was to be loaded onto a vehicle and turned over to the National Transportation Safety Board.

Coast Guard Lt. Tasha Sadowicz of the agency's St. Louis office said the boat that capsized and sank was known as "Stretch Duck 07." Like all 22 duck boats in operation in Branson, it was required to undergo annual inspections. The most recent was in February.

But Sadowicz said the Coast Guard's "certificate of inspection" placed limits on when the boats can enter the water based on wind speed and "sea state," which refers to the height of waves.

Sadowicz did not have information on Stretch Duck 07's limits but said they will be a focal point of the investigation.

Some witnesses have said the lake was calm and the storm came up suddenly Thursday evening. Sadowicz said investigators want to find out if operators were adequately monitoring the weather and should have reasonably known a storm was approaching.

Turbulent weather has caused trouble for duck boats before.

Coast Guard records show that a similar duck boat in Philadelphia took on a 3- or 4-foot wave on Oct. 3, 2015, as it carried 12 passengers on a tour of the Delaware River. Water got into the engine compartment, causing the engine to stall and setting the vessel adrift.

The boat was safely towed to shore. The cause of the failure was determined to be "the rapidly worsening river conditions." But the Coast Guard also cited a "failure to anticipate the change in the weather conditions."

"The change of the tide from slack to flood and the strong northerly winds caused the waves to quickly build and exceeded the restriction on the vessel's COI (certificate of inspection)," the Coast Guard report stated.

Duck boats were designed for military use in World War II. The Missouri boat that sank was built in 1944.

Stretch Duck 07 had a few apparently minor problems in recent years.

In 2011, the vessel "lost steering while underway on Table Rock Lake" with 30 passengers on board. The driver was able to make it back to shore, according to Coast Guard records.

On June 6, 2015, water got into the engine compartment as the boat entered the lake from land, a process known as "splash down."

A January 2016 inspection found inoperable heat detectors, which were later fixed.

The Coast Guard prohibited the vessel from operating from January 2015 to April 2015, but the report does not state a reason other than "hazardous/unsafe condition." Another report from February 2015 cited leakage in a wheel well caused by sealant failure.

The owner of an inspection service in the St. Louis area said he issued a written report in August 2017 to the Branson duck boat operator, Ripley Entertainment, after inspecting two dozen boats. In the report, Steve Paul of Test Drive Technologies explained that the vessels' engines – and pumps that remove water from their hulls – might fail in inclement weather.

On Saturday, former NTSB chairman James Hall said the design of duck boats makes them prone to the type of accident that occurred in Missouri, particularly when weather turns bad. He said they should be banned.

At a news conference Monday in Branson, Coast Guard Capt. Scott Stoermer said the investigation will also look into whether the boat captain followed company guidelines regarding use of life jackets.

Missouri law requires boat passengers ages 7 and younger to wear life jackets, but commercial vessels like the duck boats are exempt. The law requires enough life jackets for passengers and crew, and jackets that fit all of the children. Whether to advise passengers to use life jackets is an "operation decision" made by the captain, Stoermer said.

Several survivors made it to safety by climbing aboard another sightseeing boat that was nearby.

Many survivors told Missouri State Highway Patrol chaplain Steve Martin that they were able to swim to the Branson Belle paddle-wheeler. Some climbed up the paddle wheel itself. Others clung to the side of the boat until bystanders pulled them to safety.

"The waves were kind of pushing them toward the boat," Martin said.

Ripley Entertainment's website said it was offering to pay for all medical and funeral expenses for victims, to return all personal items from the accident scene and to help with families' travel or accommodations. The company also said it was offering grief counseling for its own employees.

Nine of the people who died belonged to one Indiana family. Others killed came from Missouri, Arkansas and Illinois. The dead included five children. Fourteen people survived.

Divers recovered a video-recording device from the boat and sent it to the NTSB lab in Washington, D.C. Agency spokesman Keith Holloway said it was unclear what the recorder captured.

Salter reported from St. Louis. Hollingsworth reported from Kansas City, Missouri.

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## **Branson Duck Boat, Which Sank In 80 Feet Of Water, Raised From Bottom Of Lake**

By Will Schmitt

[USA Today](#), July 23, 2018

BRANSON, Mo. — Salvage operators resurfaced the duck boat Monday that sunk last week during a severe thunderstorm, killing 17 people.

Divers with the Missouri State Highway Patrol joined a floating barge in the water at 9:24 a.m. CT to start the bringing the duck boat to the surface from its resting place 80 feet below. By 10:10 a.m., a crane brought it up and workers on the barge operated pumps to clear water from it, allowing the boat to float.

It is next expected to be towed to shore. Initially, officials had said the operation was expected to take about five hours, but fewer than 90 minutes had elapsed from the time the divers submerged.

The boat will be taken to a "secure facility" where the highway Patrol will transfer custody of the Duck to the NTSB, Capt. Scott Stoermer with the Coast Guard.

The Coast Guard was overseeing the operation but did not performing the actual salvage work.

Ride the Ducks Branson submitted a salvage plan that included contracting with Fitzco Marine Group of Shell Knob, Missouri, according to the Coast Guard official. The company also is located on Table Rock Lake, about 20 miles west of Branson.

Two small drones hovered near the barge and the Missouri State Highway Patrol dive boat while a news helicopter flew far overhead. Closer to the surface on the beautiful Ozarks morning, a small flock of ducks swam cautiously nearby.

Among the 17 people who died last week when the amphibious vessel swamped and sank during a thunderstorm that brought hurricane-like winds to the lake near Branson were nine members of the Coleman family of 11 from Indianapolis.

Ride the Ducks Branson, which operates the land and water tours, offered Monday to pay funeral and medical costs for victims and survivors.

"We are offering to pay for all related medical bills and funeral expenses, return all personal items from the rescue scene, and assist with any related travel or accommodations that will help the families in their time of need," company officials said on their Facebook page.

All of the duck boat survivors who had been hospitalized in CoxHealth's Branson hospital have been discharged, CoxHealth said Sunday evening on Twitter.

The crash is one of the deadliest U.S. boating tragedies in recent history and has drawn national attention to this southwest Missouri tourist town of 10,000. The fatal sinking has also renewed focus on decades-old concerns about the safety of duck boats.

The wreckage temporarily will go into NTSB custody for inspection as part of an investigation that may take a year to complete.

The federal agency has conducted interviews and already has taken possession of a video recorder from on-board the duck boat, a World War II-era craft refurbished for modern tourism. It is unclear whether the device is operable or whether its data can be obtained.

The Ride the Ducks Branson company, a subsidiary of Ripley Entertainment, has suspended operation pending the investigation. Ripley purchased the Branson duck boat operation in late 2017.

Follow Will Schmitt on Twitter: [@ws\\_missouri](#)

## **Missouri Duck Boat Raised. Was Branson Tragedy Preventable?**

By Joe Robertson

[Kansas City \(MO\) Star](#), July 23, 2018

Unused orange life jackets remained tangled in the boat's canopy as a barge crane hoisted Stretch Duck 07 from the bottom of Table Rock Lake.

Crews took less than an hour Monday morning to recover the Ride the Ducks boat from 80 feet of murky lake water. Once the vessel broke the surface, two small American flags remained intact on the front. The metal structure supporting the canopy was still in place, but part of the covering was open. Life jackets dangled from the frame.

Investigators with the National Transportation Safety Board took custody of the duck boat as questions piled up about whether last Thursday's tragedy — which killed 17 of the 31 people on board — could have been prevented.



Among the most critical questions: Why weren't weather warnings heeded, who made the final call to take the boat out and why weren't any life vests used? SIGN UP

NTSB officials have said they want to know what information the duck boat company and captain had before someone made the decision to take the boat out when potential severe weather had been on the radar for several hours. The National Weather Service issued a thunderstorm warning at 6:32 p.m. and specifically mentioned Table Rock Lake.

Six minutes later, at 6:38 p.m., the county dispatchers reiterated the warning and said there could be damage to roofs, siding and trees. The first 911 call about the duck boat came in at 7:09.

"You need to respond to the (Showboat) Branson Belle," a Stone County Public Safety Dispatcher said in one of the first calls, according to audio captured on Broadcastify.com. "... For a Duck that has sunk."

Federal investigators also will look at the policies and procedures in place at Ride the Ducks.

"That's going to help us put where the liability is," said Lt. Tasha Sadowicz, spokeswoman for the U.S. Coast Guard's regional office in St. Louis. "Is it company policy that they decide when the boats go out or is it the captain's call? Or did the captain go against what the company said?"

"There are just a lot of questions we just don't know the answers to right now."

Earlier Monday, U.S. Coast Guard Capt. Scott Stoermer said at a news conference that the decisions to go out on the water and whether to tell passengers to use life jackets were under investigation.

Another crucial component was the life vests. None of the passengers on the boat was wearing one when the boat began to take on water and eventually sank. Five children, four of them under the age of 10, died.

While Missouri state law requires recreational boaters under 7 years old to wear life jackets at all times on the water, duck boats do not have that requirement because they're considered regulated vessels, Sadowicz said. The boats are, however, required to have enough personal flotation devices for all passengers and crew, including appropriately-sized jackets for all children on board.

That exemption frustrates one former federal transportation official.

"That's just nuts," said Mary Schiavo, who served as U.S. Department of Transportation Inspector General from 1990 to 1996. "You need to have everyone in a vest age 13 and under, not just 6 and under. Kiddos hang on the rail, they run around. Kiddos have got to be in a life vest."

Why the exemption for commercial vessels?

"I assume they think if it's a commercial vessel, they have a higher standard," she said. "But that doesn't appear to be the case with duck boats that are 1944 vintage."

The Coast Guard and the NTSB are conducting joint and separate investigations into the actions and conditions that led to the sinking, the Coast Guard said. And the Missouri Highway Patrol is conducting an investigation into any possible negligence or failures by the boat company and its employees.

"We are continuing to follow up on any leads we have," said Sgt. Jason Pace, a spokesman with the patrol's Troop D. "We're talking to everyone. ... If there is a criminal element, it will be handled appropriately."

The boat company, Ride the Ducks, coordinated Monday morning's recovery under the Coast Guard's watch.

The Highway Patrol's divers photographed the boat extensively where it lay at the bottom of the lake in case the process of raising the boat created any new damage, Stoermer said.

Divers entered the water shortly before 9:30 a.m. and attached cables to the sunken boat, which rested about 80 feet below the surface. A crane on a barge began lifting the boat to the surface shortly after 10 a.m.

The duck boat surfaced about 200 yards from the concrete ramp that it was trying to reach in Thursday's storm.

Once the boat was brought to the surface, crews began pumping out water. They raised the front end to drain out more water. The crews let the boat float for several minutes to test its stability, then towed it toward the shore where a trailer waited.

On Saturday, investigators retrieved a video recorder from the sunken duck boat and sent it to Washington, D.C., for analysis. They also obtained video recorders from a second duck boat that had made it safely to shore and from the Showboat Branson Belle, which was docked nearby when the duck boat submerged.

Stoermer declined to comment on the condition of the boat, because it is part of the investigation. The canopy was seen opened, with unused life jackets tangled in the top.

Stoermer thanked the cooperation of the Highway Patrol, Stone County sheriff's office, the city of Branson and the Showboat Branson Belle in aiding in the salvaging of the boat.

The Showboat Branson Belle, whose patrons watched the terror unfold Thursday, was closed and silent Monday as the salvage team raised the duck boat some 50 yards from the showboat's giant red paddle wheel.

The Star's Cortlynn Stark contributed to this report.

## **Coast Guard Salvages Missouri Boat After Deadly Sinking**

By Reuters Staff

[Reuters](#), July 23, 2018



Full-text stories from Reuters currently cannot be included in this document. You may, however, click the link above to access the story.

## **Duck Boat Operators In Wisconsin Dells Not Changing Safety Procedures After Branson Tragedy**

By Tessa Weinberg

[Chicago Tribune](#), July 23, 2018

Jason Field was in disbelief when he got the call from a friend that a duck boat capsized in Table Rock Lake in Branson, Mo., on Thursday.

As the grandson of Melvin Flath — the man who first popularized the now national tourist attraction of “duck boat” tours in Wisconsin Dells — Field has grown up on the amphibious vehicles since he was a young boy.

In the 1940s, Flath was contracted by the U.S. government to truck iron to Milwaukee mills. He heard of a government auction in Los Angeles where there would be 250 trucks for sale. He drove more than 2,000 miles to the Golden State in hopes of expanding his trucking business.

But instead of trucks for sale, there were duck boats — a military vehicle created during World War II and designed to travel on water and land.

Flath and his brother spent \$250 on one in 1945 — nearly \$3,500 today — and drove it back to Milwaukee. While Flath was on a trip to Wisconsin Dells later that year, the idea of duck boat tours was born.

Field operates the same property his grandfather first started in 1946. Thursday’s sinking more than 600 miles away was an event he hopes to never see repeated.

“I hope it never happens ever again,” Field said of the sinking boat that 17 people died trying to escape. “Unfortunately when you get in your car, when you get on an airplane, when you get on a train, it’s a numbers game.”

Despite the recent tragedy, duck boat operators in Wisconsin Dells — a popular tourist destination along the Wisconsin River that many Chicagoans frequent — don’t plan on making changes to their safety protocols.

“We’ve been operating safely in Wisconsin Dells for 73 years,” said Dan Gavinski, general manager of Original Wisconsin Ducks. “We are not changing any of our rules and regulations in light of what has happened down there with a different vehicle and under those weather conditions. Our record speaks for itself.”

But Andrew Duffy, an attorney who has represented families harmed by duck boats in Philadelphia, said he doesn’t think that answer’s good enough. Duffy said duck boats are “death traps” when they sink because of a lethal combination between a rigid canopy and a boat that doesn’t have much buoyancy to begin with.

“I think it’s a very cavalier approach to say, ‘We’re not changing anything,’ in the wake of such a horrific disaster where 17 people lost their lives in the industry that they’re involved in. Their approach should be that they’re going to reevaluate,” Duffy said.

Original Wisconsin Ducks and Dells Army Ducks, which Field owns, both operate original World War II duck boats. Both companies said they’ve never had any incidents like the one that occurred in Branson in the decades they’ve been in operation.

“Our boats, although similar in stature, are not the same boats that they operate down in Branson,” Field said. “Those ducks have been modified, they’ve been stretched by 4 to 5 feet.”

Both companies also own all the property their tours traverse, which allows for easy exits if necessary, Field and Gavinski said. At any point in the ride, their duck boats can leave the water within a minute, they said.

Areas like Lake Delton are smaller bodies of water that see less traffic from large vessels, Field said. And in the event of bad conditions, the tours are put on hold.

“We’re pausing tours for weather and for water,” Field said.

This spring, dangerous water levels flowing from the spring thaw caused Field to put a pause on some tours.

Gavinski’s duck boats seat fewer people than the one that sunk in Branson and allow for 21 passengers and a pilot. In total, Original Wisconsin Ducks owns 92 vehicles, with about 58 of them currently in use.

Although riders aren’t required to wear life vests during the ride with either company, Field and Gavinski said they demonstrate before every trip where they’re located and how to properly wear one.

On the boats operated by Original Wisconsin Ducks, life jackets are located about 2 feet above riders’ heads along the breakaway canopies which are held in place by Velcro, Gavinski said.

Their boats also feature emergency exits along the front, back and side, and it’s company policy to leave curtains raised while on the water, he said.

Despite the differences between the duck boats in Wisconsin Dell and the one that sunk in Branson, Duffy said duck boat companies need to prepare for the worst.

“I don’t buy the argument that, ‘This hasn’t happened to us, so therefore we don’t have to make any safety changes.’ No company expects a disaster like this to happen,” Duffy said.

Field declined to comment on the duck boats’ canopy roofs, which the National Transportation Safety Board pointed to as a key factor “contributing to the high loss of life” when a duck boat capsized in Arkansas in 1999, drowning 13 of its passengers, the Kansas City Star first reported.

But Field said he plans to take into consideration any recommendations the U.S. Coast Guard makes.

"My best interest is making sure that we're creating family memories here that can be passed down to generation of generation that keep coming back to the Dells," Field said.

Duffy won't be riding a duck boat in Wisconsin Dells any time soon.

"It is my firm opinion that a traditional duck boat cannot be made safer," he said.

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## **Duck Boats Should Be Outlawed As Tour Boats, Says Maritime Law Expert**

By Chris Davis

[WIBC-FM Indianapolis](#), July 23, 2018

BRANSON, Mo.--Duck boats, like the one on which nine members of an Indiana family died Thursday, should be outlawed, said Daniel Rose, a Navy veteran and maritime law expert. Rose said the design of the amphibious craft was not good to begin with.

"It really should be outlawed. Overall, it's not a safe vessel,"

said Rose, whose is also an attorney with Kreindler & Kreindler, in New York City. He has represented people in accidents involving duck boats and other water craft.

He said the duck boat was invented for use in World War II.

"It was a troop carrier intended to bridge that little gap between a big troop carrier vessel and the shore,"

said Rose. "It literally was a dispensable, one-time use design. After the war...there was a lot of surplus and people started buying these boats and using them for different things that they were never intended to, including tour boats."

Rose compared the design to a bathtub, and said it is especially unstable with a canopy added. He said a duck boat is easily disturbed by another boat's wake, gale forced winds, or in the case of the one at Table Rock Lake, severe weather.

"They are repeatedly used with passengers, really filled to the brim."

He said in addition to being top-heavy, the boats also have a propensity to flood easily.

"It ends up being essentially, a death trap, a coffin, because people can't get out of it,"

said Rose. Seventeen people died when severe weather hit Branson, Thursday, including the nine people from one Indiana family.

Rose said he believes money is a big reason the boats haven't already been outlawed. He said the maritime industry is powerful, and it's tough for Congress or individual states to make a law against duck boats as tour boats. But, he

believes that could be a recommendation when the National Transportation Safety Board finishes their investigation.

"Hopefully when the NTSB looks at this incident in light of all the other ones, the recommendation will be that these vessels should no longer be used as tour guide vessels."

Until then, it's up to you whether you ride in one, especially if there are no life jackets supplied, or if the weather looks rough.

"When we buy a ticket, we are counting on that expertise and that knowledge of how to operate that vessel safely and that didn't happen here," said Rose.

## **Ban The Duck Boats, Says Former NTSB Chairman**

By Michael Goldstein

[Forbes](#), July 23, 2018

The duck boat disaster in Missouri is one of the worst US tourist boating accidents in the last fifteen years, since a tourist boat capsized in Lake George, NY. In the incident near Branson, Missouri, some seventeen people, including nine from a single extended family, drowned in the accident.

The duck boat that capsized and sank in Table Rock Lake was raised from 80 feet of water today, and the postmortems will begin as the funerals end. Operator Ride the Ducks has offered to pay for related medical bills and funeral expenses, return all personal items from the scene, and assist with travel or accommodations for the affected families.

Unfortunately, the aging 'ducks' like the one that sank last week, essentially 70- year amphibious World War II invasion craft now repurposed for tourist use, have a particularly troubling history. 'Duck boats' have suffered a number of fatal accidents similar to the Missouri disaster. On May 1, 1999, 13 people drowned in Lake Hamilton, near Hot Springs, Arkansas, when the 'duck' Miss Majestic sank in 60 feet of water. Some 13 people drowned, including 3 children, many trapped by the boat's canopy.

National Transportation Safety Board chairman Jim Hall told USA Today that the disaster on Table Rock Lake seemed all too similar to that 1999 disaster. Hall compared duck boat excursions to 'unregulated amusement park rides,' and said "My feeling after seeing this one is that the only thing to do in the name of public safety is to ban them. It's the responsible thing to do to ensure (riders) are not put at risk."

There have been at least 8 fatal accidents involving duck boats in the last 8 years, both on land and in the water.

For example, in 2002, just three years after "Miss Majestic" went down, four people drowned in the Ottawa River in Quebec when the Lady Duck sank, reportedly because the hull wasn't watertight.

And in Philadelphia, two young Hungarian tourists drowned when their duck lost power in the Delaware River

and was rammed by a tugboat-propelled barge. The families of the victims were awarded a \$17 million judgment, and their attorney described the 'ducks' as "death traps."

Duck boats have also kept tourists in Britain on their toes. In 2013, the tour company known as Yellow Duckmarine had not one but two incidents of ducks sinking at the waterfront, with passengers forced to swim to shore or be rescued by nearby boats. Investigators found the company's 'ducks' suffered "a high number of mechanical breakdowns, hull failures and flooding incidents." One of the sunken ducks was described as "not seaworthy" with a "heavily corroded hull." That same year in London, duck passengers were forced to jump overboard after the boat caught fire. Twenty people were hospitalized.

But there's another, almost forgotten parallel to the Table Rock Lake disaster. That duck boat tragedy took place in Lake Garda, Italy 73 years ago.

Duck boats were originally built from 1942 to 1945 as DUKWs, a military acronym for a hybrid 'swimming truck'. The DUKWs, inevitably known as 'ducks', transported US troops and supplies to beach heads, crossing rivers like the Rhine and driving on land over roads in both the European and Pacific theaters. DUKWs were also supplied to Britain, Russia and Australia for use in their war efforts, and later served in Korea.

The DUKWs played an important role, but many were lost for reasons other than enemy action. Overloading, mechanical breakdowns (like running out of fuel so their pumps wouldn't operate) storms, high seas, waves, and ship wakes took their toll. At the Normandy invasion, on June 6 and 7, for example, 41 DUKWs were lost.

The disaster at Lake Garda was a tragic example. A number of DUKWs were attached to the US Army's 10th Mountain Division during the Italian campaign at the end of World War II. (Perhaps the most famous surviving member of the 10th Mountain Division is former US Senator and Presidential candidate Bob Dole, who recently celebrated a birthday.) Facing German forces on the other side of the lake, 26 US soldiers were loaded onto a DUKW in the Italian town of Torbole. But as they moved from west to east, the vehicle stalled, took on water and quickly sank. Only one soldier was able to swim back; the other 25 went down with the overloaded DUKW. Missing for almost 70 years, Italian divers found the DUKW in 276 meters of water in 2012. There are no plans to recover the remains.

Considering the troubling post-war history of the 'ducks', perhaps the accident will also be a wake-up call for tourist destinations like Branson. Certainly, the duck tours are 'cute' and provide a unique land-and-water perspective on a destination. But after all, the first duty of a destination is to make sure it is making every effort to keep tourists safe.

## **Courtney Criticizes Proposed Cuts To Coast Guard To Pay For Border Security**

[New London \(CT\) Day](#), July 23, 2018

U.S. Rep. Joe Courtney, D-2nd District, is among a group of bipartisan lawmakers criticizing the Trump administration for a proposal to cut funding for the Coast Guard to pay for border security.

On Friday, Courtney joined 15 members of the U.S. House in sending a letter to the Office of Management and Budget and the Department of Homeland Security expressing opposition to cuts to the Coast Guard budget to offset increased funding for Immigration and Customs Enforcement operations along the southern border.

The Washington Post reported in late June that the Trump administration is considering shifting \$77 million from the Coast Guard's budget to other parts of DHS. The report says that most of the money would go to ICE, which along with the Coast Guard, falls under DHS.

"Our border is only as secure as its weakest link, and efforts to strengthen and secure our land border will be undermined by actions that make our 12,000-mile maritime border more permeable. The Coast Guard is the most effective resource we have to mitigate the threats of smugglers and illicit cargo coming to the United States by sea," the lawmakers wrote.

In March 2017, draft budget documents from the Trump administration proposed cutting \$1.3 billion from the Coast Guard to pay for other priorities within DHS, namely cracking down on illegal immigration. The plan was subsequently scrapped.

## **CYBER NEWS**

### **The Cybersecurity 202: 'We Have To Work Together.' Government Struggling With Sharing Cyberthreat Information, Officials Say**

By Derek Hawkins

[Washington Post](#), July 23, 2018

THE KEY

Current and former policymakers admit it: The U.S. government needs to do a better job sharing cyberthreat information with the private sector if it's going to defeat increasingly complex cyberattacks from nation states.

The exchange of cyberthreat information between the government and companies was the cornerstone of a 2015 bill hailed as landmark legislation to protect against digital attacks. But more than two years later, these comments at a Cyber 202 Live event hosted Friday by The Washington Post reveal the U.S. government has an incredibly long road ahead to effectively implement the legislation. Officials are finally acknowledging they have been too focused on trying to

get companies to share information with them – and less on sharing with private companies who want threat intelligence the government detects.

“No company out there, no state out there is going to overcome this challenge by themselves. We have to work together,” said Christopher Krebs, undersecretary for the Department of Homeland Security’s main cyber unit, the National Protection and Programs Directorate.

“We have to be thinking more broadly,” added Tonya Ugoretz, director of the Cyber Threat Intelligence Integration Center, which tracks cyberthreats from within the Office of the Director of National Intelligence. “The U.S. government does not have the monopoly on intelligence when it comes to cybersecurity.”

Ugoretz said the government could create a more “holistic picture” of the threats it sees by forging new relationships with the private sector’s cybersecurity industry.

“The more that we can create a dialogue and mechanisms for sharing information between government and private sector back in the other direction,” she told my colleague Ellen Nakashima at the event, “that will help all of us be better able to play defense against some of these efforts.”

The Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act created incentives for private companies to share their threat intelligence with the federal government. By giving them legal immunity and setting up a more formal repository for that information through DHS, the hope was that the exchange of information would better prepare the country to defend collectively against attacks.

But few companies are participating. As the website NextGov reported recently, just six nonfederal entities have signed up to share their data. Lawmakers who supported the legislation had expected the number to rank in the thousands, according to NextGov.

Still, the fact that they’re not sharing doesn’t mean there’s nothing to share. All industry sectors are facing widespread threats — and it’s going to take a “whole-of-government” response to help them, panelists said.

“If you talk to [chief information security officers] who are in financial institutions, they shake a lot and they sweat and they don’t sleep much, because they are overwhelmed at the sheer level,” Mike Rogers, the former Republican chair of the House Intelligence Committee, told my colleague Carol Leonnig. “You used to have criminals only trying to get in — now you have nation-states trying to get in, which makes their job incredibly difficult.”

“And we’re all going to pay a price for that,” Rogers said. “Without a concerted effort this is only going to get worse.”

There have been hopeful developments of collaboration, panelists said. One major success story, Ugoretz said, was the government’s work with private

cybersecurity researchers to investigate and attribute the devastating WannaCry ransomware attack to North Korea. In that instance, she said, private-sector researchers had detailed data on the cyberattack that they shared with DHS and the intelligence community. “We relooked at that data that came from the private sector and I think realized what we had,” Ugoretz said. “The importance was having the relationships and the trust to be able to go to different partners and say, ‘This part of the community needs this piece of information that another part has. And also, to be that kind of nudge to the community.’”

Krebs also noted, for instance, that DHS and the FBI are working with Microsoft to investigate unsuccessful hacks on three congressional candidates that the company revealed last week.

But the panelists agreed a broader partnership is necessary.

“It’s not just about government working together — it’s about industry and government working together,” Krebs said. “We have to have integrated, cross-sector, government-industry collaboration in the cybersecurity space, in the critical-infrastructure protection space. And that’s where we’re going.”

#### PINGED, PATCHED, PWNED

PINGED: A Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act application to wiretap former Trump campaign adviser Carter Page released Saturday by the Justice Department said Page carried out “clandestine intelligence activities” for Russia, The Washington Post’s Shane Harris reported. The Justice Department released the application to surveil Page as well as three renewal applications, representing more than 400 pages of documents that are heavily redacted, according to Harris. “In the four decades that FISA has been in effect, it’s not clear that any application for surveillance has ever been released,” my colleague wrote. “Materials related to FISA operations and legal processes are among the most highly classified and closely guarded in the government. The New York Times, USA Today and the James Madison Project all sued for release of the materials.”

Page responded to the release of the FISA documents in an interview on CNN’s “State of the Union” and denied being an agent for Russia. “On Sunday, Page said that it was ‘ridiculous’ and a ‘complete joke’ to believe he had been an agent of the Russian government,” The Post’s Elise Viebeck and David A. Fahrenthold wrote. “‘I’ve never been an agent of a foreign power by any stretch of the imagination,’ Page said on CNN. That echoed President Trump’s own statements on the documents — issued via Twitter from Trump’s golf club in New Jersey — that the wiretap on Page was part of politically motivated spying on Trump’s presidential campaign.”

Additionally, the release of the documents undercuts claims by House Intelligence Committee Chairman Devin Nunes (R-Calif.) that the surveillance of Page was tainted by

political considerations, The Post's Philip Bump wrote. Bump lists several allegations made in a Republican memo released in February about the FISA application to surveil Page and compares them to the actual application released last week. "From the evidence at hand though, it's certainly fair to assume that it's Nunes's memo, not the warrant application, that suffered from a stronger political bias in its creation," Bump wrote. "We can't entirely blame Nunes, though. In an interview with Fox News in February, he admitted that he himself hadn't read the warrant application."

**PATCHED:** Clemson University researchers gathered 3 million tweets from 3,841 Twitter accounts involved in Russia's efforts to sow discord in American politics and found that Russian trolls were especially active the day before WikiLeaks started releasing stolen emails from Hillary Clinton's campaign chairman John Podesta, The Post's Craig Timberg and Harris reported on Friday. According to the Clemson researchers, accounts used by Russia's Internet Research Agency sent more than 18,000 tweets on Oct. 6, 2016, my colleagues wrote.

"The Clemson researchers and others familiar with their findings think there probably is a connection between this looming release and the torrent of tweets, which varied widely in content but included a heavy dose of political commentary," Timberg and Harris wrote. "'Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump: Which one is worse: Lucifer, Satan or The Devil?' said one tweet from an account called Gwenny that directed readers to a YouTube video." Aside from the release of the Podesta emails, Oct. 7, 2016, was also the day that The Post published Trump's vulgar comments about groping women and the federal government accused Russia of seeking to interfere in the election. "The tweets overall reveal a highly adaptive operation that interacted tens of millions of times with authentic Twitter users — many of whom retweeted the Russian accounts — and frequently shifted tactics in response to public events, such as Hillary Clinton's stumble at a Sept. 11 memorial," Timberg and Harris wrote.

**PWNED:** The United States in recent years has been less and less assertive in shaping international cyber policies, ceding ground to China and the European Union in the process, Politico's Eric Geller reported Sunday. "The weakening American position comes as the European Union, filling a gap left by years of lax U.S. regulations, imposes data privacy requirements that companies like Facebook and Google must follow," Geller wrote. "At the same time, China is dictating companies' security practices with mandates that experts say will undermine global cybersecurity — without any significant pushback from the United States."

Politico offers another example of America's loss of influence: the enactment by the European Union of rules such as the General Data Protection Regulation, which creates online privacy standards that U.S. companies have to abide by. The United States lacks a comprehensive cybersecurity

agenda and has generally relied on voluntary standards rather than legislation and regulation to advance Internet policies, Geller writes. "The U.S. model looks both paralyzed and somewhat feckless, while the Europeans and the Chinese are making progress and, in many cases, damaging the openness of the internet," Adam Segal from the Council on Foreign Relations tells Geller.

— More cybersecurity news:

#### CHAT ROOM

The release of the application to surveil Page drew a mix of sharp reactions on Twitter.

From the New York Times's Charlie Savage:

From the Los Angeles Times's Chris Megerian:

From Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.):

From Rep. Adam B. Schiff (Calif.), the ranking Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee:

From the libertarian Cato Institute's Julian Sanchez:

#### PUBLIC KEY

— Score one for Trump against Congress. "Senate Republicans have dropped their attempt to reimpose U.S. sanctions on the Chinese telecommunications giant ZTE, lawmakers said Friday, a victory for President Trump as congressional Republicans abandoned a rare effort to thwart his agenda," The Post's Erica Werner reported. "The retreat means ZTE, a company found guilty of selling U.S. goods to Iran in violation of sanctions, will duck Commerce Department penalties that bar U.S. companies from doing business with it."

Senators dropped the provision and language from House lawmakers prevailed, according to Werner. "The House language bars U.S. government agencies and contractors from doing business with ZTE, but allows the company to continue doing business with private U.S. firms," my colleague wrote. Rubio expressed disappointment on Twitter and said he was "surprised" that senators "caved so easily."

— Public officials and transparency advocates are debating where privacy ends and public records begin as private messaging applications expand across the nation, including among government officials, the Associated Press's Ryan J. Foley reported. "Some government officials have argued that public employees should be free to communicate on private, non-governmental cellphones and social media platforms without triggering open records requirements," Foley wrote. "Lawmakers in Kentucky and Arizona this year unsuccessfully proposed exempting all communications on personal phones from state open records laws, alarming open government advocates. A Virginia lawmaker introduced a bill to exempt all personal social media records of state lawmakers from disclosure."

— More cybersecurity news from the public sector:

#### PRIVATE KEY



“Facebook said Friday it suspended a longtime partner that had used data from Facebook and other social networks to assist governments — including Russia, Turkey, and the United States — in monitoring public sentiment, a more cautious approach in the aftermath of a data privacy scandal,” my colleagues Elizabeth Dwoskin and Craig Timberg report. The action appears preemptive. “Facebook said that Boston-based Crimson Hexagon did not do anything inappropriate but that it is curtailing the company’s access to its data while conducting an investigation,” according to Dwoskin and Timberg.

## **America’s In A Cyberwar And ‘I Am Not Convinced We’re Winning,’ Former House Intel Chair Says**

By Alex Hickey

[CIO Dive](#), July 23, 2018

Dive Brief:

There’s a machine learning arms race taking place between system defenders and hackers, and the advantage boils down to which side has the most training data, according to Jason Matheny, director of Intelligence Advanced Research Projects Activity at the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (DNI), speaking at The Washington Post’s Cyber 202 Live event in Washington Friday.

If big tech pooled all the data it had on cyberattacks, however, it would have a data set greater than that of any attacker’s.

Despite the clear advantages of pooling resources and combining intel to fight threats, these practices lag. But countering the force of malicious actors will demand cooperation between the enterprise, the government and the American people, said

Without a concerted and full government effort, the cybersecurity landscape is only going to get worse.

“America’s in a cyber war, most Americans don’t know it, and I am not convinced we’re winning,” said Mike Rogers,

former chairman of the House Intelligence Committee and host of “Declassified” and national security commentator on CNN, speaking at the event. Dive Insight:

Integrity of data is critical to develop AI algorithms and automation tools that counter threats effectively; one need only look so far as Norman, the world’s “first psychopath AI” created by MIT researchers, to see the consequences of what bad data can do, Elizabeth Joyce, VP and CISO of Hewlett Packard Enterprise, told the Cyber 202 audience.

Companies have to figure out how to protect their data and intellectual property with security controls and processes, said Antonio Neri, president and CEO of HPE, speaking at the event. But with the extension of a company’s networks

from the cloud to the intelligent edge, this is more difficult than ever.

There are 3 forms of protection: protection of the core, detection and recovery, according to Neri. Encryption, analyzing user activity, coordinating action between the security team and business team, and utilizing embedded technologies like AI are all key pieces of building out a security system that serves the business’ mission.

Along with increasing scale and speed of attacks, the pool of malicious actors has expanded over the last several years, Joyce said. Nation states, hacktivists and for-profit attackers pelt businesses from all directions.

At the federal level, agencies like CTIIC

promote interagency collaboration, information sharing and support. CTIIC famously attributed the WannaCry attack to North Korea after compiling and analyzing data from the intelligence community and private sector, according to Ugoretz.

But starting with the basics — semantics and clarity of mission — will be important when handling cybersecurity issues. For example, the National Protection and Programs Directorate leads the Department of Homeland Security’s efforts to protect physical and cyber infrastructure. But offering \$5 to anyone in the audience who knows what “NPPD” stands for, the department’s undersecretary Christopher Krebs noted that it sounds like “a Soviet-era intelligence agency.”

The NPPD is waiting on a hung-up bill that would change the segment’s name to the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, he said. Clearly conveying function will move cybersecurity to the front of conversations, figuratively and literally.

## **Russian Hackers Reach U.S. Utility Control Rooms, Homeland Security Officials Say**

**Blackouts could have been caused after the networks of trusted vendors were easily penetrated**

By Rebecca Smith

[Wall Street Journal](#), July 23, 2018

Full-text stories from the Wall Street Journal are available to Journal subscribers by clicking the link.

## **DHS: Russian Hackers Got Into Control Rooms Of US Utilities**

By Brett Samuels

[The Hill](#), July 23, 2018

Russian hackers were able to penetrate the control rooms of hundreds of U.S. utilities last year as part of a campaign against power company vendors that could be ongoing, The Wall Street Journal reported Monday.

Department of Homeland Security (DHS) officials told the Journal that hackers working for a state-sponsored group

known as Dragonfly or Energetic Bear were able to get inside the networks of U.S. utilities to the point that they could have disrupted power service and caused blackouts.

"They got to the point where they could have thrown switches" said Jonathan Homer, chief of industrial-control-system analysis for DHS.

The department did not disclose which companies were victimized by the hacks, but indicated there were hundreds affected by the breach. Other companies reportedly may still be unaware they were part of the breach because the hackers may have broke in using employee credentials.

The U.S. government had previously accused Russia of staging a multi-year cyberattack campaign against the energy grid and other elements of critical infrastructure in the United States.

It said the effort dated back to at least early 2016, and focused on networks belonging to small commercial facilities with the goal of working up toward larger energy companies.

The newly disclosed details of the Russian campaign comes amid growing concerns about Russia's efforts to interfere in the 2018 midterm elections.

President Trump has endured a week of criticism from Republicans and Democrats after he stood next Russian President Vladimir Putin in Finland and cast doubt on whether Russia interfered in the 2016 election.

He later walked back the statement and expressed confidence in the intelligence community's conclusion, though he added that it could have been others besides Russia that interfered.

Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats warned shortly before Trump met with Putin that "warning lights are blinking red" to indicate that Russia is preparing to launch another campaign to interfere in U.S. elections.

## **Russian Hackers Penetrated Networks Of U.S. Electric Utilities: WSJ**

By Reuters Staff

[Reuters](#), July 24, 2018

Full-text stories from Reuters currently cannot be included in this document. You may, however, click the link above to access the story.

## **2 Panels Dive Big-time Into Cybersecurity This Week**

**A daily briefing on politics and cybersecurity**

By Tim Starks

[Politico](#), July 23, 2018

TWO COMMITTEES, FOUR EVENTS — The House Homeland Security and Government Oversight committees are going gangbusters on cybersecurity this week. Things kick off Tuesday morning when the Oversight panel holds a hearing titled "Cyber-Securing the Vote: Ensuring the Integrity

of the U.S. Election System." At the same time, the Homeland Security panel will mark up a baker's dozen worth of bills, most notably H.R. 6443, which authorizes DHS's Continuous Diagnostics and Mitigation program into law and insists that it keep pace with technological advancement as part of its mission to protect federal agency networks.

The parade of hearings from the two committees continues Wednesday. In the morning, the House Homeland Security Subcommittee on Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Protection meets to discuss federal cybersecurity risk, focusing on a May Office of Management and Budget report that concluded three-quarters of federal agencies are at risk of failing their cybersecurity programs. In the afternoon, the Government Oversight Subcommittees on Government Operations and Information Technology hold a joint hearing on cybersecurity risk, too. Their focus will be on the Government Accountability Office's designation of cybersecurity as a "high risk" area in the federal government.

HAPPY MONDAY and welcome to Morning Cybersecurity! In case it bears repeating, octopuses and their ilk are just the best. Send your thoughts, feedback and especially tips to [tstarks@politico.com](mailto:tstarks@politico.com), and be sure to follow @POLITICOPro and @MorningCybersec. Full team info below.

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING ABOUT THE SUPPLY CHAIN — Two-thirds of organizations have suffered a supply chain cyberattack in the past year, according to a wide-ranging survey out today of top global IT professionals. Despite that, CrowdStrike's survey found that in the U.S., those pros weren't terribly worried about attacks from nation-states, with only 12 percent deeming it a serious concern. Nonetheless, since NotPetya and WannaCry, organizations have altered their vetting processes, with 80 percent saying that they would not work with less established suppliers due to a perceived security risk, and 72 percent saying their organizations don't hold external supplies to the same security standards to which they hold themselves. "Knowledge gaps and the lack of established standards to prevent complex supply chain attacks are putting organizations at risk from a financial, reputational and operational perspective," said Dan Larson, vice president of products marketing at CrowdStrike.

VOICE OF THE STATES — President Donald Trump is making the job of state officials rushing to secure their election systems significantly harder, the president of the National Association of Secretaries of State said during an appearance this weekend on C-SPAN's Newsmakers, where he was co-interviewed by our very own Eric. "The president and the administration [have] to take a leadership role in this," said NASS President and Vermont Secretary of State Jim Condos. "Unfortunately, the person at the top has not been supportive and has sent mixed messages, and that makes it difficult on us as secretaries." Condos, who became NASS's

new president on July 16, also urged Congress to create a regular election security grant program instead of doling out money in response to periodic crises.

Asked whether he wanted to see Congress and the states apply more scrutiny to the small community of voting technology vendors that produce the vast majority of America's election infrastructure, Condos said he supported "a little more regulation" but said he wasn't yet sure what form that should take. He had stronger words for lawmakers on another subject, though, calling it "unconscionable" that Congress hadn't boosted the Election Assistance Commission's budget now that federal and state officials were calling on it for a broader set of tasks.

Despite heading the group that represents most states' chief election officials, Condos avoided criticizing his fellow secretaries for controversial decisions like using paperless electronic voting machines. When Eric asked whether he thought states should prioritize moving to paper-based systems, Condos first cautioned that he would "be speaking not as a NASS president but as a Vermont secretary of state," before saying he considered paper systems "the correct way to go." "My personal belief," he added, "is that a best practice is to have some kind of paper trail."

... BUT DO STATES NEED TO USE THEIR VOICE MORE? — House Republicans last week voted down a proposal for another \$380 million in election security funds, and the top cyber official at DHS thinks states need to help lawmakers understand what they want. Chris Krebs, the undersecretary of the National Protection and Programs Directorate, said states will need to be "much more precise" about how much money they need to guide Congress. "If a state needs money, they need to say what they need it for and how much they need," he said at a Washington Post conference late last week. Krebs also said that until special counsel Robert Mueller's indictment of 12 Russians for hacking during the 2016 election, he didn't know that Russia stole information on 500,000 U.S. voters; he knew from the previous intelligence assessment that 100,000 voters' information was stolen, and that Mueller's investigation uncovered the new figure.

More from Krebs: He said that in DHS's experience, the most common cybersecurity flaws in state election equipment were outdated operating systems, insufficient patch management and misconfiguration errors. And while he joked that his organization's name "sounds like a Soviet-era intelligence agency," it has real consequences, since the non-descript moniker actually hampered his ability to form relationships with state election officials at first. A bill renaming NPPD as the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Agency (H.R. 3359) has languished in Congress, but Krebs said he doesn't know why, as he's not aware of anyone opposing it.

A WANNACRY STORY YOU DIDN'T HEAR — The intelligence community fusion center played a significant role in shaping the Trump administration's analysis of last year's WannaCry ransomware outbreak, the center's leader said. After the Cyber Threat Intelligence Integration Center learned about private companies' WannaCry data through its partnership with the Department of Homeland Security, it asked DHS if it could share the data with the rest of the intelligence community. DHS checked with those companies and received their permission, so CTIIC ran the data by analysts at the NSA, the FBI and other agencies. Based on the data, "the intelligence community was able to come to a fairly quick assessment, but with low to moderate confidence, that it was North Korean cyber actors behind the attack," CTIIC Director Tonya Ugoretz said at the Washington Post conference.

CTIIC wasn't satisfied with a low-confidence assessment, so it asked the rest of the intelligence community to do more research and look at their own intelligence channels for more attribution evidence. Eventually, through that work, the Trump administration achieved high confidence that WannaCry was the work of North Korea, a conclusion it announced in December. Ugoretz hailed the process as a validation of the CTIIC's role as an intermediary between government players. "The importance was having the relationships and the trust to be able to go to different partners and say, 'This part of the community needs this piece of information that another part has,' and also to be that nudge to the community," she said. "We try to be that small neutral voice in the middle that helps bring folks back to, and move forward and make progress on, issues like that."

GETTING STRONGER — The Secure Elections Act, S. 2593, keeps picking up steam. Sens. Angus King and Jerry Moran are the latest to sign on as cosponsors on the legislation, which among other things aims to improve information sharing between the feds and state election administrators. "Concerningly, backend election systems — including voter registration databases, ballot creation systems, voting machine configuration systems, absentee processing and reporting and tabulation software — are increasingly vulnerable and have been compromised by both private and state actors," said Moran. "The Secure Elections Act helps better safeguard our systems while reaffirming the leadership role states play in administering federal elections, and I urge my colleagues to support this critical legislation to protect future elections."

THE ROAD NOT TAKEN — Before his heavily criticized summit with his Russian counterpart, President Trump was supposed to play a lead role in his administration's public campaign to improve election security and rebut charges that it was leaving Moscow a standing invitation to return. "White House aides had begun

preparations to make Mr. Trump the public face of planned efforts by the administration to stop election interference in the midterms,” The Wall Street Journal reported late last week. The administration envisioned Trump “presiding over meetings and making announcements about an administration-wide commitment to safeguard the 2018 elections,” the Journal said, before citing a U.S. official as saying that Trump may now “struggle to credibly make the case that he is spearheading” this work.

The Journal also confirmed a White House observation, previously reported by Axios, that Trump has shied away from the election security issue because he instinctively links it to collusion allegations. White House officials told the paper that Trump “can’t separate [Russian election cyberattacks] in his mind from the outcome of the 2016 election.”

RECENTLY ON PRO CYBERSECURITY — Republicans settled on a less harsh version of a provision punishing Chinese telecommunications company ZTE. ... They defended their decision by saying the Commerce Department’s punishments of ZTE are harsh enough.

TWEET OF THE DAY — This guy. Listen to this guy.

#### QUICK BYTES

— The International Telecommunications Union and Global Cyber Alliance are teaming up to help countries prepare for cyber threats.

— More details about Trump’s thinking and White House reaction to the Helsinki meeting. The Washington Post

— Russian operatives went nuts tweeting one day before an eventful news cycle that featured the intel community’s inaugural election interference assessment, a WikiLeaks drop and Trump’s lewd taped remarks. The Washington Post

— Trump again took a different position on whether Russia interfered in the 2016 election. CNN

— NBC News has a story about Iran laying the groundwork to launch cyberattacks against the U.S.

— Ecuador is about to withdraw asylum for WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange. Intercept

— The Trump administration released previously top-secret documents related to the surveillance of former Trump adviser Carter Page. The New York Times

— Former Justice Department official David Kris offers his perspective on the Page docs. Lawfare

— A nation state is likely behind a big cyberattack on a Singapore government database. NDTV

That’s all for today. Yee-haw!

Stay in touch with the whole team: Mike Farrell (mfarrell@politico.com, @mikebfarrell); Eric Geller (egeller@politico.com, @ericgeller); Martin Matishak (mmatishak@politico.com, @martinmatishak) and Tim Starks (tstarks@politico.com, @timstarks).

## Secure Elections Act Gains Support In Senate

[MeriTalk](#), July 23, 2018

Support for S. 2593, the Secure Elections Act of 2018, is growing in the Senate as four more legislators signed on as cosponsors late last week.

The bill, initially introduced in March by Sens. James Lankford, R-Okla., and Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn., would streamline cybersecurity information-sharing between Federal intelligence agencies and state election agencies and protect against threats posed by foreign adversaries. Among other measures, the legislation seeks to provide security clearances to state election officials and provide support for state election cybersecurity infrastructure

“Election security is national security. Our intelligence community has confirmed time and time again that Russia interfered in the 2016 election and that they are working to do it again. Congress must take action to prevent this kind of foreign interference in our electoral process,” Klobuchar said.

As the 2018 midterm elections near, the list of cosponsors grew last week with the addition of Sens. Mike Rounds, R-S.D., Bill Nelson, D-Fla., Jerry Moran, R-Kan., and Angus King, I-Maine. The bipartisan list of cosponsors also includes Sens. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., Kamala Harris, D-Calif., Susan Collins, R-Maine, Martin Heinrich, D-N.M., Richard Burr, R-N.C., and Mark Warner, D-Va.

“Concerningly, backend election systems—including voter registration databases, ballot creation systems, voting machine configuration systems, absentee processing and reporting and tabulation software—are increasingly vulnerable and have been compromised by both private and state actors,” Moran said. “The Secure Elections Act helps better safeguard our systems while reaffirming the leadership role states play in administering Federal elections, and I urge my colleagues to support this critical legislation to protect future elections.”

As part of improving cybersecurity information-sharing, the legislation calls for the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) to establish an advisory panel of independent experts on election cybersecurity. The panel will include nine members, appointed by the leadership of EAC and the National Institute of Standards and Technology. Members cannot be officers or employees of the United States government and must possess expertise in election law, election administration, or cybersecurity. The legislation also calls for increased reports to Congress, as well as increased funding for state election system cybersecurity modernization grants.

The legislation is before the Senate Rules Committee awaiting a vote.

## Cyber Warfare Policy Included In Final Version Of Annual Defense Policy Bill

By Olivia Beavers



[The Hill](#), July 23, 2018

The final version of an annual defense policy bill would set new authorities for the Department of Defense to deter and respond to attacks in cyberspace, including establishing the first U.S. policy on cyber warfare.

Following House and Senate negotiations, a conference report on the Nation Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) released Monday says the United States should be able to use every option on the table, including offensive cyber capabilities.

"[The NDAA] establishes a policy that the United States should employ all instruments of national power, including the use of offensive cyber capabilities, to deter if possible, and respond when necessary, to cyber attacks that target U.S. interests," the conference report reads.

It notes that the policy could be applied if the attack was to intentionally "cause casualties, significantly disrupt the normal functioning of our democratic society or government, threaten the Armed Forces or the critical infrastructure they rely upon, achieve an effect comparable to an armed attack, or imperil a U.S. vital interest."

Congress said if is faced with a cyber attack or malicious cyber activity, it will first encourage the White House to take action before acting unilaterally.

"It is the policy of the United States that, when a cyber attack or malicious cyber activity transits or otherwise relies upon the networks or infrastructure of a third country—the United States shall, to the greatest extent practicable, notify and encourage the government of that country to take action to eliminate the threat; and if the government is unable or unwilling to take action, the United States reserves the right to act unilaterally (with the consent of that government if possible, but without such consent if necessary)," the blueprint of the bill reads.

If passed into law, this legislative text from the Senate would establish the nation's first cyber warfare policy — but it has to pass the president's desk first.

President Trump has previously objected to the language in the Senate-passed bill, charging that this would infringe on his presidential authorities.

"The Administration strongly objects, however, to section 1621(f), which would damage the national security interests of the United States by endorsing certain foreign policy and military determinations that are traditionally within the President's discretion, informed by the facts and circumstances prevailing at the time," the Trump administration said in a statement last month about the provision.

Trump, on the other hand, applauded a provision that would affirm the ability of the secretary of Defense to carry out military activities and operations in cyberspace, designating these cyber military activities to be traditional military activities.

"The Administration strongly supports the Committee's recognition in section 1622 that military operations in cyberspace constitute traditional military activities. This affirmation is critical to ensuring that all elements of national power may be brought to bear in support of national security objectives," the White House statement continues.

The NDAA also gives the National Command Authority — a term that collectively describes the U.S. president and the secretary of Defense — the authority to direct the Defense Department's U.S. Cyber Command to respond and deter to "ongoing" cyber attacks carried out by Russia, China, North Korea, and Iran by taking "take appropriate and proportional action."

This particular provision comes at a time of heightened concern about Russian aggression.

Recently, Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats warned that the "warning lights are blinking red again" on Russians carrying out cyberattacks.

Special counsel Robert Mueller, who is investigating Russian interference in the 2016 election, indicted 12 Russian intelligence officers earlier this month for their involvement in hacking into the Democratic National Committee and releasing that information.

The defense bill, which is meant to advance the goals of the administration's National Defense Strategy, also would approve of more than \$100 million in funding for "test infrastructure and workforce," which includes cybersecurity.

Sens. John McCain (Ariz.) and Jack Reed (R.I.), the top Republican and Democrat on the Senate Armed Services Committee, respectively, as well as Sen. Jim Inhofe (R-Okla), and House Armed Services Committee Chairman Mac Thornberry (R-Texas) announced the details of the NDAA after months of negotiations.

"The [fiscal year 2019] NDAA will help provide our men and women in uniform the resources and tools they need to face today's increasingly complex and dangerous world," they said in a statement.

"This legislation will strengthen our military's readiness, provide our troops a pay raise, support effective implementation of the National Defense Strategy, drive further innovation in emerging technologies to secure our military advantage, and continue to reform the Department of Defense," they continued.

## **Why DOD Needs To Engage Industry Despite Controversy – FCW**

By Lauren C. Williams

[Federal Computer Week](#), July 23, 2018

Trepidation at some Silicon Valley tech companies over working with the Defense Department shouldn't be the death knell of innovation, according to Gen. Paul Nakasone,



National Security Agency director and commander of U.S. Cyber Command.

Nakasone addressed reservations tech companies have in working with DOD, namely Google's decision to pull out of its partnership for Project Maven – an artificial intelligence project – over ethics concerns.

"I don't think that should mean that we should stop engaging. I think that the most important thing we need to do is engage," said Nakasone at a panel discussion at the Aspen Security Forum in Aspen, Colo., July 21.

Nakasone also addressed workforce concerns and gave his perspective on the controversial dual-hat role he occupies overseeing Cyber Command and NSA during the nearly hour-long discussion.

Retention remains government's biggest challenge, he said. Nakasone hopes to adopt a Silicon Valley-like ecosystem that encourages cyber workers to bounce from DOD to the intelligence community, to the private sector and back again.

Nakasone noted that Silicon Valley's culture encourages people to rotate between organizations, but stay within the community.

"Why not have that same ecosystem within our government? If they're not going to work within our military, maybe it's within the intelligence community, maybe it's within other parts of the interagency, maybe it's within private sector," he said.

He later added, "I don't think you should ever be afraid to pick up the phone and say, 'Hey, how about coming back to the agency?' It's interesting how much power that has some days."

On his dual-hat role, Nakasone kept in line with the collaborative theme, stressing that NSA and Cyber Command's partnership were what mattered most, not whether they shared a leader.

"Whatever decision is made, the partnership between the National Security Agency and U.S. Cyber Command is one that is critically important to our nation. So whether or not it's one person or two people, that partnership, I would offer, is the most important thing we should think about," he said.

## **Is America Ready For Russian Cyberattack On Our Election?**

By Michael Bahar, Opinion Contributor —

[The Hill](#), July 23, 2018

Of all the attention the recent Helsinki summit generated, one aspect has garnered scant attention, but it has the ability to shake America and other democracies to their core. This is data manipulation.

Defending himself before Chris Wallace, Russian President Vladimir Putin, said: "What was the problem? It concerned the hacking of a Democratic candidate's email.

Did this attack involve manipulation with facts? This is very important. I want the Americans to hear this. Did anyone manipulate with the facts or plant fake information? No."

But they could have. In September 2015, then-Director of National Intelligence James Clapper appeared before the House Intelligence Committee and warned that the next "push of the envelope" in cybersecurity might be attacks that change or manipulate electronic information in order to compromise its accuracy or reliability. These attacks are not designed to steal data; but are designed to disrupt, embarrass, undermine trust, or bring individuals, companies and entire systems down.

I was staff director and general counsel for the U.S. House Intelligence Committee during the 2016 election, and in that job, I had access to so-called Gang of Eight material, information so classified that only eight members of Congress (and their Staff Director or National Security Advisor) could view it. Among the things I worried about most during that election was not the theft and release of legitimate emails, which was bad enough, but about the theft and release of doctored, manipulated or faked emails.

Looking ahead to November 2018, should hackers manipulate the facts and plant fake information, is America prepared? Can America rely on candidates to responsibly forswear the use of leaked materials out of greater loyalty to the country than to themselves (even though manipulated information will eventually prove a double-edged sword)?

What about companies? Are they prepared? A nation state, criminal or hacktivist could break into a bank's system and create a whole email trail evidencing insider trading or scandalous conduct among top executives. The hacker could then leak those emails and, before the truth could be sorted out, the damage would be done in terms of regulatory and criminal investigations, costly litigation, reputations damaged, and lives ruined.

Even an individual with a financial motive could launch a data manipulation attack, by, say, shorting a stock before conducting the attack. This type of attack is not hypothetical. At this point, it is more a matter of intent than capability. Hackers already gain access to systems and send fake emails to lure recipients into clicking on malicious links in order to gain deeper access or to jump to new victims. If they can fake a phishing email, they can fake anything else.

There are also indications that nations are testing data manipulation techniques in preparation for larger scale attacks. For example, in September 2017, the U.S. Government released a Maritime Advisory alerting the shipping industry to multiple instances of GPS interference experienced during the week of June 19, 2017 by more than 20 vessels operating in the Black Sea. News of this incident had spread earlier, with many ships in waters near the Russian port of Novorossiysk complaining that their GPS

systems showed their location to be at Gelendzhik Airport, more than 32 kilometers inland.

In the face of this gathering storm, there are things that can be done. On the low-tech side, organizations, including state elections, can use greater redundancy or hard-copy back-ups (or, in the shipping context, a good old fashioned sextant). On the high-tech side, organizations and governments can consider employing blockchain technology (which is generally immutable), or investing in alternative positioning, navigation and timing (PNT) networks to reduce reliance on GPS.

Just being aware of, monitoring for and incorporating data manipulation attacks into Cyber Incident Response Plans can help substantially in prevention and recovery, as can training and greater information sharing. Recognizing the critical importance in what Putin said is an essential first step.

Ultimately, as the current DNI Dan Coats has said, the system is blinking red, with our military and private sector networks under relentless attack. The next turn of the screw will be data manipulation attacks, and only those governments and companies that are prepared will withstand the coming squeeze.

Most important, only citizens who commit to facts and to codes of acceptable conduct during elections will earn the right to retain their democracy and their democratic institutions.

Michael Bahar served as staff director and general counsel to the minority staff of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and was deputy legal adviser to the National Security Council during the Obama administration. He is now a partner and leader of the cybersecurity and privacy team at Eversheds Sutherland.

## CDM Grows Up – FCW

[Federal Computer Week](#), July 23, 2018

The Continuous Diagnostics and Mitigation program, led by the Department of Homeland Security, is entering the third of four planned phases. By this time, agencies should know what and who is on their networks and be shifting their focus to understanding what is actually happening there.

FCW recently gathered a group of cybersecurity leaders to discuss their progress on CDM, the lessons learned in implementing Phases 1 and 2, and the expectations for the new Dynamic and Evolving Federal Enterprise Network Defense (DEFEND) set of task orders.

Challenges remain in terms of budgets and implementation. But now that the program is evolving from compliance to mitigation, many IT experts are cautiously optimistic that the government might finally be transforming its approach to cybersecurity.

The discussion was on the record but not for individual attribution (see below for full list of participants), and the

quotes have been edited for length and clarity. Here's what the group had to say. Holding vendors accountable

Participants said implementing CDM has been a challenge, and several expressed frustration with the standardized options they were given under Phases 1 and 2. They stressed the need for agencies to have more input into choosing vendors and products.

A DHS representative acknowledged those concerns, saying, "We have worked closely with [the General Services Administration] on the new task order to make sure that agencies had a seat at the table in terms of who is selected as that new integrator preceding DEFEND. We at DHS and GSA don't want to be selecting these integrator solutions. We want the agencies to be selecting them. At the end of the day, we need to make sure we're in alignment with what headquarters wants to do, but we also want to make sure that we're accurately reflecting the requirements down at the mission level."

Another participant added: "We set up DEFEND to be cost-plus. So we've built in the ability for the agency to be able to say, 'Integrator, you didn't come through on this, and so on this factor, we're going to mark you down.' We've had that in place for our dashboard contract, and that does make a difference because the integrator wants to get that whole award value or that plus piece. And when they don't, their leaders are asking, 'What wasn't working? We've got to get that fixed.'"

Many participants raised concerns about being judged by the quality of the data they are submitting to the CDM dashboard, given vendors' lack of consistency and the government's shifting targets. "It was very late in the game when we learned that a lot of the requirements had actually changed," one executive said. "When we talk about the data quality, is 80 percent accurate enough? Is 90 percent accurate enough? It all depends on the environment."

The DHS representatives in the group said they've heard the data quality concerns across the board from agencies. "Beyond the 80 percent and 90 percent that are in our key performance parameters and operational requirements documents, we want it to be 100 percent to the extent that we can," one said. "So if you have a center reporting on the status of patching an endpoint, that should be reflected accurately at the integration layer, and it should be reflected accurately on your agency dashboard, on up to the federal dashboard."

Participants

Bernard Asare

IT Security Program Manager, Office of the CIO,  
Department of Health and Human Services

Bruce Begnell

Deputy Director, Enterprise Network Management,  
Department of State

Doug Cowan

Manager, Regional Sales, Cisco

Kevin Cox

CDM Program Manager, Office of Cybersecurity and Communications, National Protection and Programs Directorate, Department of Homeland Security

Larry Hale

Director, Strategic Solutions and Security Services, General Services Administration

Benjamin Liberty

CDM Program Manager, Office of the CIO, Department of the Interior

Gustavo Limon

CDM Program Manager, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Thomas McCarty

Division Manager, Enterprise IT Services Division, Information Sharing and Services Office, Department of Homeland Security

Jim Piché

Homeland Sector Director, Federal Systems Integration and Management Center, General Services Administration

Greg Sisson

Director, Integrated Joint Cybersecurity Coordination Center, Office of the CIO, Department of Energy

Birgit Smeltzer

Program Manager, IT Security Category Management Operations, Office of IT Security Service, General Services Administration

Minh-Hai Tran-Lam

Senior Advisor, Federal Deposit Insurance Corp.

Rich Troutman

IT Project Manager, Census Bureau

Steve Vetter

Strategic Solution Executive, Cisco

Note: FCW Editor-in-Chief Troy K. Schneider led the roundtable discussion. The May 23 gathering was underwritten by Cisco, but both the substance of the discussion and the recap on these pages are strictly editorial products. Neither Cisco nor any of the roundtable participants had input beyond their May 23 comments.

However, DHS and the Office of Management and Budget are treating fiscal 2019 as a transition period because they know some substantial data cleanup is still needed. "When you start sending your data up to the federal dashboard, you're not going to be immediately held to account on it," one participant said. "Plus, in the June or July timeframe, we have the [Agency-Wide Adaptive Risk Enumeration] scoring algorithm coming online to help with cyber hygiene measurements. So that gives us about a year and a quarter, starting in July, to really clean everything up and make it as useful as possible."

Another participant, however, expressed concern that the data cleanup would "get lost in the shuffle. During Phase

1, there wasn't consistent information sharing, and when you have different integrators, that's going to be natural and that's obviously where DHS has to step in. If we're trying to have apples-to-apples comparisons among agencies and everybody's doing it differently, we're just not going to be there."

Another countered that data quality would not get overlooked, because one of the foundational requirements of DEFEND is that integrators must "make sure these data quality concerns are being addressed from the start of the contract." "Working toward a common, shared purpose"

The group also discussed cybersecurity priorities and the often overwhelming amount of work that remains. "We're not going to be able to get it all done in one year or even three years," a participant said. "It's going to take us likely beyond the six years that we have under DEFEND. But we expect in that six years to make great strides to really tighten up cybersecurity across the federal enterprise."

Fortunately, the DEFEND task order incorporates the ability for integrators to add resources as needed. "They can scale up mobile teams, cloud teams, boundary protection teams," one executive said. "So they'll have additional resources they can bring to the agencies, maybe more so than the original integrators had at the beginning. There are going to be logjams and bottlenecks at the agencies, but if we can say we're bringing in a team of five people to help you with it, you won't have to pull your engineers off another priority project."

One executive argued that "agencies have a responsibility to try to streamline this internally as much as they can. Obviously, we need leadership support all the way to the top. We also need to have close interaction and partnership with our operations folks because security and operations — from the very beginning of time when security became a real discipline — have never really worked closely together. CDM is kind of the bridge that we need to help do that."

The group agreed it's a delicate balance. With Phase 3, one said, "you're bringing the network back in. The network integration with security is something that the agency leadership cares about and our CFO conversations are very much about. But I have to make sure the agency continues to perform its mission. You can't take my network down. I understand security is important, but I need sane security for the things that need to be done."

Another participant said that "the problem is tougher in some ways but also easier in some ways because the goal in Phase 3 and Phase 4 is protecting the network and the data. It is no longer just reporting to a dashboard. The dashboard gives awareness of where you need to focus, but it's about protecting your crown jewels, which are the data and the networks that transport that data. And I actually think that's going to make our lives a bit easier with that dialogue with the

network folks because now we're working toward a common, shared purpose." Budgets and leadership buy-in

Despite the frustrations and concerns, many participants said they believe CDM holds tremendous promise. "I'm a firm believer in what CDM has to offer," one executive said. "It's a real, rare opportunity we've never had to actually get out of this world where everything is paper based and transform the government into that ongoing authorization and that ongoing assessment."

One question, though, is clear: How do IT leaders discuss it in a way that CFOs can understand?

A participant referenced the earlier conversation about security and operations and said, "We've got to get these tools tied in at the operational level. We've already seen that once the tools are starting to be used for operational purposes, for understanding inventory and understanding what software we have installed, it starts to transform the conversation within the agency."

"Originally I was moving from compliance to cyber hygiene," another said. "Now we're looking to get holistic capabilities across the agency to be able to respond to a threat. And that's going to take more than just this compliant piece or this single module. It's a more complex understanding of what the threat is and what the needs are."

Another agreed, saying: "In the early days of CDM, there was great branding around automation. We're going to move away from three-ring binders. We're going to get into automation. Now that CDM largely is moving from reporting into the M in CDM — the mitigation part — I think we need to get back to that. It's about automating threat detection and actually taking action through automation. I think that's going to be the key to taking CDM to the next level to actually focus on threats."

"That is true," a third participant said, "but in the federal world, our executives speak a different language. They look at their metrics. They look at their scores and the things that Congress is going to ask some questions about" because they're tied to the executives' performance plans.

The CDM dashboard should reflect those metrics, an executive said, because "it will communicate value immediately to our leadership and then we'll get the support that we're looking for."

That buy-in at the highest levels is essential because DHS will no longer be financially subsidizing CDM at the agency level.

"The CFOs need to be at the table as soon as we're making that initial purchase because they're two years ahead for the budget process," one participant said.

"I know that each agency's different," another executive said, "but I would say to help yourselves out, you want to look at your reprogramming requests now because it's really between you and the Hill. And it's really your congressional

communications that will help push you over with the funding."

Another acknowledged that the costs involved are significant, but raised a deeper concern about that investment: "I don't want new shiny toys. I don't want stuff that might last six months. I want stuff that integrates together so that the initial increase in my cost should be offset in X amount of time."

One of the DHS representatives acknowledged that "a lot of agencies already have a lot of the tools, so we don't need to buy tools. It's more like, 'Let's map to the requirements, and let's get your tools working together so that they inform the dashboard, so that your cybersecurity operations center can actually take action with that data.' That's where the DEFEND program is going."

Another participant said that, "in a lot of cases as CDM tools are maturing over the years, it requires less touch labor to operate them or to make use of the data out of them, so you're decreasing your labor cost. Maybe the license is a little bit more expensive, but you don't need a lot of your workforce sitting around anymore. You eliminate human risk. The DEFEND acquisition allows for that evolution of technology."

## **The Military Wants To Help Secure The Midterm Elections**

By Justin Lynch, Joe Gould

[Fifth Domain Cyber](#), July 23, 2018

The remarks came as Congress is poised to decide on legislative language that would authorize the military's cyber arm, U.S. Cyber Command, to disrupt, defeat and deter Russia's systematic and ongoing cyberattacks. The Senate passed the provision as part of its version of the annual defense policy bill, but it does not appear in the House version.

## **Former Trump Cyber Adviser Tapped For Top Intelligence Role In UK**

By Jenna McLaughlin

[CNN International](#), July 23, 2018

Rob Joyce, President Donald Trump's former cybersecurity coordinator, has been tapped to serve as the National Security Agency's top representative in the United Kingdom, according to a former senior intelligence official and a second source familiar with the matter.

As senior US liaison officer in London for the US's top digital spy agency, which vacuums up communications from around the globe, Joyce "will be responsible for the full breadth of NSA mission in and to the UK government," the former senior intelligence official told CNN.

It is "the most important overseas post the NSA has," they added, due to the NSA's close relationship with the



British digital intelligence agency, the Government Communications Headquarters or GCHQ.

Joyce's appointment, following a stream of high-level White House departures after John Bolton took the reins at the National Security Council, comes at a time when Trump's negative comments about trade, defense spending, intelligence and other topics in Brussels and Helsinki sent a shockwave through Europe and around the world.

Since Trump became President, former and current intelligence officials have routinely said that working relationships with counterparts overseas remain strong and unimpacted by political chaos.

"The relationship with the US has absolutely underpinned British security," Nick Fishwick, a former senior national security and diplomatic official in the UK said at a conference hosted by national security website the Cipher Brief in April. "There are ripples depending on who's in power, but there's a rock solid relationship ... I never saw a departure of that warmth."

The US and the UK, along with Canada, Australia and New Zealand, are part of the Five Eyes intelligence sharing relationship – one of the longest standing and closest partnerships where very sensitive raw intelligence is regularly exchanged. The US and the UK are especially close.

Bolton eliminated Joyce's position as cybersecurity coordinator entirely after his departure, leading several concerned congressman to introduce a bill to restore the job.

Joyce, known for his technical expertise, served as the head of one of the NSA's elite hacker units, the Tailored Access Operations group, between 2013 and 2017 where he led some of the agency's most specialized efforts to penetrate foreign targets overseas. He began work at NSA in 1989 and accepted a job at the National Security Council in October 2017, where he led the government's cybersecurity strategy from the top – though he chose to return to NSA shortly after his colleague Tom Bossert, then the President's homeland security adviser, was asked to resign.

"I had the privilege of working closely with Rob Joyce at the White House," Chris Costa, the executive director of the Spy Museum and a recently retired senior counterterrorism advisor to President Trump. "Rob is the consummate intelligence professional; both the UK and the US will be well served by this choice."

NSA spokesperson Brynn Freeland told CNN that "as of now" there are no personnel changes to report. Joyce is currently a senior cybersecurity adviser for newly minted NSA Director Gen. Paul Nakasone. Joyce's new job is still working its way through the system, according to the sources familiar with his new role.

The special advisory role in the UK could set Joyce up for leadership positions back in Washington in the future. Former Deputy Director of NSA Chris Inglis also served as

the senior liaison to the UK before becoming second-in-command at Fort Meade, NSA's home base in Maryland.

## Watch Out For Ransomware Scams

[Butler \(PA\) Eagle](#), July 23, 2018

The Federal Bureau of Investigation's Pittsburgh office is warning residents of a recent spike in ransomware scams in the Greater Pittsburgh area.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation's Pittsburgh office is warning residents of a recent spike in ransomware scams in the Greater Pittsburgh area.

Ransomware is used by hackers to target various organizations. It is software that encrypts files and holds data hostage in return for payment of a ransom.

FBI officials say that infected computers usually freeze and display a pop-up message saying that federal law has been violated and a fine must be paid. The messages often appear to be from the FBI or another federal agency.

FBI officials said people and businesses can protect themselves by keeping offline data backups of information.

"The FBI doesn't support paying a ransom," said Greg Nelsen, acting special agent in charge. "The best way to protect yourself and your organization is to have a backup of your data, maintain it, and disconnect it from your computer."

Other tips for businesses and individuals to protect themselves include:

- Using an antivirus software and a firewall
- Enable pop-up blockers
- Always back up the content on your computer and maintain offline copies of personal and application data
- Avoid clicking on emails or attachments you don't recognize, and avoid suspicious websites altogether.

If you receive a ransomware pop-up or message, the FBI recommends immediately disconnecting from the Internet and filing a complaint at [www.IC3.gov](http://www.IC3.gov)

## FBI Issues Warning About Spike In Ransomware Scams

[WPXI-TV Pittsburgh](#), July 23, 2018

PITTSBURGH – The Pittsburgh office of the FBI issued a warning Monday about a recent spike in ransomware scams in the Pittsburgh area.

Ransomware is a type of malicious software installed on a computer that encrypts files. It usually starts by freezing your computer screen and locking up your computer, followed by a pop-up message where hackers demand money to pay a fine or get a key to having your files decrypted, FBI officials said.

Victims have paid anywhere from hundreds to thousands of dollars, FBI officials said.

The FBI offered some tips to protect yourself:

Always use antivirus software and a firewall.



Enable pop-up blockers.

Always back up the content on your computer.

Be skeptical. Don't click on any emails or attachments you don't recognize, and avoid suspicious websites altogether.

The FBI said if you receive a ransomware pop-up or message, immediately disconnect from the internet to avoid data losses, then file a complaint at [www.IC3.gov](http://www.IC3.gov).

Ransomware not only impacts personal computers, but businesses, financial institutions, and organizations.

## **TERRORISM INVESTIGATIONS**

### **Suspected Beaumont Bomb Maker To Get Competency Hearing**

By Phoebe Suy

[Beaumont \(TX\) Enterprise](#), July 23, 2018

A Beaumont man accused of making homemade bombs will appear in court next month for a competency hearing at which his attorney will pursue an insanity defense, according to court records.

Mark Avery Rudd, 27, was arrested in early February after federal investigators uncovered two suspected destructive devices in his Beaumont home, the U.S. Attorney's Office said in a statement. His hearing is set for Aug. 2, according to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas.

Rudd is charged with possession of an unregistered destructive device, according to his March indictment. He faces up to 10 years in prison if convicted, as well as a maximum \$10,000 fine and up to three years of supervised release.

Rudd's attorney, public defender Gary Bonneau, did not respond to requests for comment on Monday.

While executing a February search warrant at Rudd's home in the 4800 block of Belmont Street, federal investigators said they found a cooler containing two devices.

A Beaumont police officer at the scene said the department had been watching the house and had reason to believe there may have been explosives inside, according to previous Enterprise reporting.

One of the devices was a two-liter bottle of liquid with wires extending from the top, according to court documents. The second bottle contained match heads, a strike plate and a "pyrotechnic device" with a fuse secured to a bottle of butane by duct tape, the documents said.

Investigators also found a 21-page notebook with details about how the explosives were made, including a handwritten note that read: "This is why you should not piss me off kabluey Chaos."

FBI agents, Beaumont police and fire officials blew up the two suspected explosive devices by digging a hole and detonating the materials underground.

Shortly after his Feb. 9 arrest, Bonneau, requested a psychiatric exam. Rudd was then placed in "a suitable facility" for psychiatric or psychological exams, according to an order signed by Magistrate Judge Keith F. Giblin.

If he is found not guilty by reason of insanity, Rudd could be committed to a mental hospital or other care facility for up to 10 years rather than go to prison, according to the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure.

U.S. Attorney's Office spokeswoman Davilyn Walston declined to comment on the case.

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### **Al-Qaeda Operative Who Recruited Montco's 'Jihad Jane' Pleads Guilty, Agrees To 15 Years In Prison**

By Jeremy Roebuck

[Philly \(PA\)](#), July 23, 2018

An Algerian-born al-Qaeda operative who recruited Montgomery County's Colleen "Jihad Jane" LaRose and others in a 2009 plot to assassinate a Swedish cartoonist pleaded guilty Monday and agreed to a 15-year prison term, bringing the final conviction in one of Philadelphia's longest-running terrorism cases.

The plea by Ali Charaf Damache — who was indicted in 2011 and has been held in custody in Philadelphia since his extradition from Spain last year — came as something of a surprise. Just eight months earlier, the pugnacious defendant interrupted one of his earliest court appearances, demanding he be allowed to fire his lawyer and alleging he had been fed false promises of a shorter sentence in exchange for cooperating with authorities.

But in Monday's hearing before U.S. District Judge Petrese B. Tucker, Damache, 53, was significantly more subdued. Dressed in an olive prison jumpsuit, his black-framed eyeglasses pushed atop his head, he mumbled responses to a series of questions from the bench — showing only glimpses of his earlier combativeness.

Asked by Tucker whether he was pleading guilty because he believed himself to be guilty, he hesitated for a moment before responding: "I think so. Yes."

As part of his deal with prosecutors, Damache agreed to accept the maximum sentence on a count of conspiracy to provide material support to terrorists, and said he would not fight attempts to deport him to Ireland or Algeria — countries in which he holds citizenship — once he has completed his prison term.

In exchange, prosecutors dropped another charge they had lodged, accusing him of identity theft in support of a terrorist plot.

The deal must be officially approved by Tucker at a sentencing hearing scheduled for Oct. 30.

Still, First Assistant U.S. Attorney Jennifer Arbittier Williams on Monday characterized the outcome as ideal in a case that produced some of the earliest prosecutions of Americans radicalized over the internet — a threat that has become more acute in the seven years since Damache was charged.

“Mr. Damache ... recruited individuals from the United States and brought them over to Europe,” she said. “He was organizing a plan to train them in explosives and send them out to the West to conduct violent jihad.”

Those recruits included LaRose, whose 2009 arrest and fiery online rhetoric under the screen name “Jihad Jane” shocked an America still coming to terms with the threat of international terrorists. Blond, white, and blue-eyed, the Pennsburg woman hardly fit the profile many in the United States associated with Islamic extremism.

But those very qualities made her attractive to Damache. He admitted Monday that he set out to recruit LaRose and others like her in hopes they could more easily move across borders with less suspicion.

His other targets included Jamie Paulin Ramirez, a Hispanic single mother from Colorado, and Mohammad Hassan Khalid, a former high school honors student from Maryland who at the time of his 2012 plea hearing was the youngest person convicted in the U.S. on terrorism-related charges.

And Damache courted them all aggressively, operating in jihadi forums under the online moniker “theblackflag.”

In his postings, Damache detailed his plans to recruit a “professional organized team” with “brothers” who could travel freely across Europe and “sisters” who would act in supporting roles. He hoped to send his cell members to al-Qaeda camps in South Asia for explosives training that they could put to use in Europe.

We “have already organized everything for her,” Damache wrote of LaRose in a 2009 email to Khalid quoted in court filings Monday. We “are will[ing] to die in order to protect her, no matter what the risk is.”

Later that year, Damache persuaded LaRose and Ramirez to join him in Waterford, Ireland, with promises they would launch an attack on Lars Vilks, a Swedish artist whose work depicting the prophet Muhammad's head on the body of a dog had offended some Muslims.

LaRose became disenchanted and eventually left the group before they could carry out their attack, calling an FBI tip line seeking money to return home.

Ramirez, who took her 6-year-old son to Ireland, married Damache the day she arrived. Prosecutors played

videos at her 2014 sentencing showing her and Damache goading the boy, dressed in a traditional Middle Eastern headdress and long robes, into cheerfully vowing to kill nonbelievers.

Asked Monday in court whether he admitted to trying to train Ramirez's son “in the ways of violent jihad,” Damache paused.

“I suppose so,” he eventually responded. “Yes.”

Damache was arrested in Ireland in 2010 shortly after that video was shot, but it was not always clear that he would face justice in a U.S. courtroom.

The Obama Justice Department secured Damache's indictment in 2011, but he successfully fought extradition to the U.S., convincing a judge in Ireland that he faced “inhuman and degrading treatment” if jailed in an American prison. Spanish authorities found him seven months later in Barcelona and agreed to hand him over to the U.S.

But by the time his extradition was finalized last year, the Trump administration had taken control of the Justice Department, and both the new president and newly appointed Attorney General Jeff Sessions had explicitly advocated on the campaign trail that foreign-born terror suspects should be tried in front of military tribunals, not in U.S. courts.

Asked Monday whether Damache's case in Philadelphia signaled a reversal in the administration's stance, U.S. Attorney William M. McSwain, a Trump appointee, was hesitant to draw any broad conclusions.

“Each case has to be considered individually,” he said. “This case doesn't stand for the proposition that there will never be military tribunals or that there won't be other ways of approaching a case. But the extradition requests here were always based on the idea that there was going to be a federal courtroom prosecution.”

LaRose, 55, remains in federal prison, serving a 10-year term. Ramirez, 39, and Khalid, 24, have been released after serving their sentences.

## **Al Qaeda Suspect Admits To Terror Charge In Federal Court, To Receive 15 Years In Jail**

By Samuel Chamberlain

[Fox News](#), July 23, 2018

A suspected Al Qaeda member, the first foreign-born terror suspect to be brought to the U.S. for trial under the Trump administration, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to provide material support and resources to terrorists in federal court in Philadelphia Monday.

Ali Charaf Damache, 53, an Algeria-born Irish citizen, was originally indicted on one count of conspiracy to provide material support to terrorists and one count of attempted identity theft to facilitate an act of international terrorism in 2011. He was extradited to the U.S. from Spain in July of last year.

Prosecutors say Damache, who went by the online handle "Theblackflag," sought to recruit light-skinned women and others who did not fit the traditional terrorist profile to wage jihad. His targets included Colleen LaRose, a Pennsylvania woman who called herself "Jihad Jane," online; Jamie Paulin-Ramirez, a single mother from Colorado; and Mohammad Hassan Khalid, who at the time was a high school honors student from Maryland. They were all eventually arrested.

Damache was also accused of being involved in a terror cell that wanted to kill Swedish cartoonist Lars Vilks, who depicted the Muslim prophet Muhammad as a dog. The plot never materialized, authorities said.

"Damache knowingly and willingly conspired with others to wage a violent jihad overseas, actively supporting the very ideals that allow terrorism to thrive worldwide," said William Sweeney, assistant director in charge of the FBI's New York office. "For as long as there are those who commit to carrying out these intolerable acts, the FBI will resolutely continue to address counterterrorism as our number one priority."

Damache married Paulin-Ramirez the day she traveled to Ireland to meet him in 2009. Paulin-Ramirez eventually helped the FBI investigate the terror cell.

As part of his plea, Damache admitted to training a child to prepare for jihad. Prosecutors later identified the minor as Paulin-Ramirez's child, who she brought with her.

Officials said that Damache's group recruited men online to wage jihad in South Asia and Europe, and sought to recruit women with western passports to travel through Europe in support of the cause.

LaRose is serving a 10-year prison term. Paulin-Ramirez and Khalid have been released after serving their sentences.

The move to try Damache in the U.S. was counter to Trump's promise to send terror suspects to the military prison at Guantanamo Bay. U.S. Attorney William McSwain said each case has to be handled individually, but the extradition requests that began years ago were always based on Damache being tried in U.S. federal court.

"This is exactly the kind of case that we want to be involved in because we want to be in the business of preventing disasters from happening not dealing with disasters after they happen," McSwain said.

As part of his plea agreement, Damache will receive 15 years in prison and has waived his right to appeal the sentence. When his sentence is complete, Damache will be deported to Ireland or Algeria.

Formal sentencing is scheduled for Oct. 30.

Fox News' Talia Kirkland and The Associated Press contributed to this report.

## Algerian Tied To Cartoonist Death Plot Guilty Of Terrorism

By Claudia Lauer

[Associated Press](#), July 23, 2018

PHILADELPHIA (AP) – An al-Qaida suspect linked to a plot to kill a Swedish cartoonist pleaded guilty on Monday in a U.S. court to a terrorism charge.

Ali Charaf Damache was escorted into federal court in Philadelphia for the change of plea hearing wearing a drab green prison jumpsuit and handcuffed behind his back. The Algerian-born Irish citizen had been extradited from Spain last year after authorities said they were able to track his online efforts to recruit American and European citizens to join a jihadist movement.

The 53-year-old, whose online handle was Theblackflag, was accused of being involved in a terror cell that wanted to kill Swedish cartoonist Lars Vilks, who depicted the Prophet Muhammad as a dog. The plot never materialized, authorities said.

"This is exactly the kind of case that we want to be involved in because we want to be in the business of preventing disasters from happening not dealing with disasters after they happen," said U.S. Attorney William M. McSwain.

Authorities issued an indictment for Damache in 2011 and worked with multiple entities to extradite him to face charges in a civilian court, a move that was counter to President Donald Trump's promise to send terror suspects to the military prison at Guantanamo Bay. McSwain said each case has to be handled individually, but the extradition requests that began years ago were always based on Damache being tried in U.S. federal court.

Damache pleaded guilty to conspiracy to provide material support to terrorists in exchange for prosecutors recommending a 15-year prison sentence including about four years of time served in Ireland and Spain and his agreeing to be deported. An identity theft charge was dropped as part of the deal.

Sentencing is scheduled for the end of October.

Prosecutors said Damache sought to recruit light-skinned women and others who did not fit the traditional terrorist profile to wage jihad. His targets included Colleen LaRose, a Pennsylvania woman who called herself "Jihad Jane," online; Jamie Paulin-Ramirez, a single mother from Colorado; and Mohammad Hassan Khalid, who at the time was a high school honors student from Maryland. They were all eventually arrested.

Damache married Paulin-Ramirez the day she traveled to Ireland to meet him in 2009. Paulin-Ramirez eventually helped the FBI investigate the terror cell.

As part of the plea, Damache admitted to training a child to prepare for jihad. Prosecutors later identified the minor as Paulin-Ramirez's child, who she brought with her.

Officials said that Damache's group recruited men online to wage jihad in South Asia and Europe, and sought to recruit women with western passports to travel through Europe in support of the cause.

LaRose is serving a 10-year prison term. Paulin-Ramirez and Khalid have been released after serving their sentences.

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## **Algerian Man Who Plotted With 'Jihad Jane' Admits Terrorism Charge**

[Allentown \(PA\) Morning Call](#), July 23, 2018

An al-Qaida suspect accused of plotting with a Montgomery County woman to kill a Swedish cartoonist pleaded guilty Monday to a terrorism charge in federal court in Philadelphia.

Ali Charaf Damache was accused of recruiting American women and others unlikely to be flagged as terrorists — including Colleen LaRose, a blond-haired, blue-eyed Pennsburg woman who became infamous as "Jihad Jane," the screen name she used to post jihadist screeds on YouTube.

The 53-year-old Damache, whose online handle was Theblackflag, was accused of being involved in a terror cell with LaRose that wanted to kill artist Lars Vilks, who depicted the Prophet Muhammad as a dog. The plot never materialized, authorities said.

"This is exactly the kind of case that we want to be involved in because we want to be in the business of preventing disasters from happening not dealing with disasters after they happen," U.S. Attorney William M. McSwain said.

Damache was escorted into federal court in Philadelphia for the change of plea hearing wearing a drab green prison jumpsuit and handcuffed behind his back. The Algerian-born Irish citizen had been extradited from Spain last year after authorities said they were able to track his online efforts to recruit American and European citizens to join a jihadist movement.

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Sentencing is scheduled for the end of October.

In addition to LaRose, Damache also recruited Jamie Paulin-Ramirez, a single mother from Colorado; and Mohammad Hassan Khalid, a former high school honors student from Maryland who became, at the time of his guilty plea, the youngest person convicted in the U.S. on terrorism charges.

According to court filings, Damache eventually persuaded LaRose and Paulin-Ramirez to join him in Ireland with promises they would launch an attack on Vilks.

The plot, however, fizzled out, and LaRose, Paulin-Ramirez, and Khalid were arrested.

At her sentencing hearing in 2014, LaRose still spoke of Damache with admiration.

"I had so much respect for him. I had this emotional attachment to him," she told U.S. District Judge Petrese B. Tucker. "He was so brave."

LaRose, 55, remains in federal prison, serving a 10-year term. Paulin-Ramirez, 39, and Khalid, 24, have been released after serving their sentences.

Damache could face up to 45 years in prison, but his decision to plead guilty is likely to reduce the overall time he will spend behind bars.

He pleaded guilty to conspiracy to provide material support to terrorists. Prosecutors are recommending he get a 15-year prison sentence and be deported.

The Associated Press and Peter Hall of The Morning Call contributed to this story.

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## **Lawyer For Boston Marathon Bomber Map Out Appeal Of Death Penalty Sentence**

By Travis Andersen

[Boston Globe](#), July 23, 2018

Lawyers for Boston Marathon bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev have flagged roughly 30 issues they plan to raise when he appeals his death sentence, according to a recent legal filing.

A motion filed last week with the US Court of Appeals for the First Circuit in Boston said the attorneys have "identified approximately 30 appellate claims to consider raising in Mr. Tsarnaev's [appellate] brief."

Tsarnaev's lawyers requested that the Aug. 20 deadline for filing their highly anticipated brief be pushed back to Nov.



18, citing their ongoing analysis of some 10,000 pages of transcripts in the case.

"Even relative to other federal capital appeals and terrorism appeals across the country, the record here is voluminous," David Patton, a member of Tsarnaev's appellate team, wrote in the motion.

Tsarnaev, 25, was convicted in 2015 for his role in the April 2013 Marathon bombings, which killed three people including an 8-year-old boy and wounded more than 260 others. He was sentenced to death and is currently incarcerated at a federal supermax prison in Colorado.

Tsarnaev and his older brother and accomplice, Tamerlan, also killed an MIT police officer while they were on the run. Tamerlan Tsarnaev was killed in a confrontation with police in Watertown days after the bombings.

In last week's motion, Patton referenced Tamerlan Tsarnaev's alleged involvement in a 2011 triple homicide in Waltham. No one has been charged in that case.

"In granting the government's motion [during Dzhokhar's trial] to preclude any evidence at the penalty phase of Tamerlan Tsarnaev's involvement in a brutal triple homicide and robbery in 2011, the District Court reviewed and relied upon in camera ex parte materials submitted by the government," Patton wrote. "In order to fully litigate this preclusion issue in the opening brief, counsel needs access to these materials."

Patton listed additional issues that Tsarnaev's team expects to raise on appeal.

"Counsel have completed drafts of a substantial portion of the remaining claims, including issues concerning venue, multiple errors in the selection of the death-qualified jury, the admission of evidence obtained through the use of Mr. Tsarnaev's involuntary confession, the lawfulness of certain counts of conviction . . . the exclusion of relevant mitigation material, improper prosecutorial arguments, and the admission of victim impact evidence from survivors," Patton wrote. "But, despite continuous effort, a number of issues identified and determined to be sufficiently weighty for inclusion remain to be drafted." Travis Andersen can be reached at [travis.andersen@globe.com](mailto:travis.andersen@globe.com). Follow him on Twitter @TAGlobe.

## **Whoa: Former Obama Adviser Praises Trump Progress On Syria**

By Cortney O'Brien

[Townhall](#), July 23, 2018

A former national security adviser for President Obama is giving his successor some kudos for his foreign policy.

"The Trump administration has had some success in defeating ISIS, which I think is commendable," said Jim Jones during an interview with The Hill.TV.

That's not all. He added that the Trump White House "has to be given credit for at least reversing the ISIS presence."

Jones coupled his praise of Trump with some criticism of his old boss. Obama's "red line" warning for Syria was a "mistake," Jones said. In that infamous speech in 2012, Obama said the U.S. was placing a red line in the sand. If Syria encroached it, they would feel our wrath. Well, Syria did just that. The military attacked rebel-controlled areas of the Damascus with chemical weapons, killing 1,500 civilians. It was horrific and an obvious breach of that "red line," but the U.S. failed to follow through on its threat. There would be no military retaliation.

Even a liberal New York Times contributor called it Obama's "Worst Mistake."

Contrast that with Trump's response to Bashar al Assad's second use of chemical weapons against his own people. When we found evidence to suggest Assad had been behind the latest attack, Trump promptly ordered airstrikes on Syrian military sites. A majority of Americans supported the aggressive action.

Over the weekend, the U.S. requested that Israel and other Western nations help rescue White Helmet workers from Syria. The White Helmets are credited with saving thousands of people in rebel-held areas.

## **ISIS 2.0?: Coordinated Attack Sparks Fear Islamic State May Be Rebuilding In Iraq**

**Muqtada al-Sadr, political upheaval generated by parliamentary elections exacerbates alarm**

By Carlo Muñoz

[Washington Times](#), July 23, 2018

A brazen, coordinated daytime attack in the heart of northern Iraq's Kurdistan region Monday is stoking concerns that the threat posed by the Islamic State has not subsided but is rebuilding its resources in the months after Washington and Baghdad declared the group's defeat last July.

The strike on government facilities in Irbil, the capital of Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdistan region, was the group's highest-profile attack against the city since its blistering military campaign seized territory across Syria and northern Iraq in 2014.

One week after the top U.S. commander in the Middle East insisted that the terrorist group had been contained, three gunmen shot their way into Irbil's main regional government building.

They continued firing at employees before all three were killed or captured by security forces, according to news reports. One employee was killed and four security force members were injured during the shootout with the militants, who had taken control of the third floor of the governorate building.



"We believe that the attackers are from Islamic State because of the tactics they used in breaking into the building from the main gate," a security official told the Reuters news agency. At press time, Islamic State had not officially claimed responsibility for the attack.

Kurdish paramilitary forces in Iraq and Syria have been seen as key to the successful fight to turn back Islamic State, often taking the lead in battles alongside Iraqi and U.S. forces.

U.S. military officials characterized a burst of Islamic State operations in sparsely populated Iraqi provinces as the last desperate operations of a movement that once sought to establish a permanent Islamist "caliphate" in the heart of the Middle East.

"We've always acknowledged that the [Islamic State] networks will go to ground. They will continue to return to some of their terrorist roots. They will continue to try to exert influence and re-exert their networks" after the loss last July of the terrorist group's de facto Iraqi capital of Mosul — 50 miles west of Irbil, Gen. Joseph Votel, U.S. Central Command chief, said last week.

American and allied forces are working with their counterparts in Baghdad to address the threat posed by Islamic State remnants, Gen. Votel told reporters at the Pentagon. However, U.S. and Iraqi military leaders say they are confident that the terrorist group is not poised to reassert its dominance in Iraq or elsewhere in the region.

"I'm not ready to declare that an ISIS comeback, or a resurgence, to this particular point," Gen. Votel said.

President Trump insisted last week that the fight against Islamic State was all but over.

"I think that when you look at all of the progress that's been made in certain sections with the eradication of ISIS, about 98 percent, 99 percent there," he said during a joint press conference with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Helsinki.

The attack in Irbil has raised questions over the U.S. assessment.

According to reports, several men armed with AK-47 assault rifles and hand grenades stormed the Kurdistan Regional Government complex in Irbil and engaged with local security forces in a five-hour gunbattle inside the building. The attackers breached the initial security perimeter and took hostages inside the building. One Kurdish government employee was killed and two Kurdish police officers were wounded, Reuters reported.

One of the gunmen was killed by security forces at the scene, and another reportedly detonated a suicide vest during the attack, Al Jazeera reported. A third attacker was wounded and taken into custody.

Islamic State has claimed responsibility for series of terrorist strikes that has Iraqis fearing its full-scale resurgence in the country.

Militants have carried out dozens of kidnappings, suicide bombings and attacks against local government leaders and security forces in the Iraqi provinces of Diyala, Kirkuk and Saladin, just northeast of Baghdad. The terrorist group has targeted electric plants and oil pipelines and has set up fake security checkpoints along the main road between Kirkuk and Baghdad, The Washington Post reported last week.

"Of course people are nervous. People finally thought there was stability and that they can travel wherever they want, and then there are these attacks and this video, and people are afraid again," Diyala Provincial Council member Imad Mahmoud told the newspaper.

"The terrorists are attacking from the empty desert and the mountains where there are still small cells. They are not large in number, but they are launching surprise, fast attacks and they have people inside the towns who are helping them," he said.

Frustration and fear about the potential rise of Islamic State's next generation in Iraq has been exacerbated by the political upheaval generated by parliamentary elections in May in which a party headed by nationalist Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr came first and led to lengthy, inconclusive coalition talks.

#### Southern unrest

The Islamic State's resurgence has been hastened by growing unrest in Iraq's south. Hundreds of protesters have descended on the southwestern city of Basra in the past week to demand better government services and to lambaste rampant corruption that they say plagues the government of Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi.

In an attempt to quell the unrest in Basra and the surrounding areas such as Amara, Nasiriya and Najaf, Mr. al-Abadi ordered units from the Iraqi army's 9th Division to restore order. The Iraqi leader also cut all internet access in Baghdad to keep protest organizers from rallying more followers to their cause, according to local reports.

Mr. al-Sadr's Sairoon alliance captured over 40 percent of the parliamentary vote in the May elections, and the Iranian-backed Fatah alliance came in second. Mr. al-Abadi's Victory alliance came in third place, forcing Mr. al-Abadi's party to form a ruling coalition with Tehran and the Sadrists.

Mr. al-Sadr's victory has drawn concern from U.S. and allied commanders, since the Shiite cleric has repeatedly called for the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq and warning that those troops could become targets of Shiite paramilitary groups.

Canadian forces were tapped this month to lead NATO's new military adviser mission in Iraq, as part of an effort to transform the U.S.-led coalition into a more multinational campaign.

The NATO mission can proceed only with the explicit endorsement and cooperation from Baghdad, which U.S. and allied military leaders acknowledge is uncertain.

"We are in Iraq at the invitation of the government of Iraq, and we are pursuing the things that they have asked us to provide assistance on," Gen. Votel said. "And as we move forward, I expect that we will continue to do that."

## **Waiter Faked Story That Customer Wrote 'We Don't Tip Terrorist' On Receipt, Restaurant Says**

By Washington (DC) Post

[Washington Post](#), July 23, 2018

The Texas restaurant company that banned a customer after an employee's story of a receipt scrawled with a racial epithet went viral said Monday that it had parted ways with the employee and learned that the story was spurious.

"After further investigation, we have learned that our employee fabricated the entire story," Terry Turney, the chief operating officer of Saltgrass steakhouses, said in a statement. "Racism of any form is intolerable, and we will always act swiftly should it occur in any of our establishments. Falsely accusing someone of racism is equaling disturbing."

The incident unfolded earlier this month when Khalil Cavil, 20, a waiter at a Saltgrass outpost in Odessa, Tex., posted an image to Facebook that showed a \$108 bill with zero on the tip line, and "We don't tip terrorist," written in ink at the top. Cavil, who is African American and Caucasian, said that the note was left on one of his tables, and that it left him "sick to my stomach."

"I share this because I want people to understand that this racism, and this hatred still exists," Cavil wrote. "Although, this is nothing new, it is still something that will test your faith."

The incident came amid increased attention given to incidents of racist behavior in the public sphere, particularly as they are shared in social media posts that generate thousands of views and strong emotions. But the ease with which fake information can spread on the Internet before it is ever verified remains a persistent concern.

Cavil's post was shared thousands of times, generating about 8,000 comments on Facebook. The decision by Saltgrass, which is owned by the company Landry's, to ban the customer for the incident drew coverage in USA Today, CBS and The Washington Post.

"Racism of any form is unacceptable," Turney said at the time.

On Monday, the company declined to explain what had caused it to issue the striking about-face or whether Cavil had been fired.

"All I can say is he's no longer with the company," spokeswoman Colleen Wagner said. It is not clear what information on the receipt was authentic.

The customer, whose name had been redacted on the receipt, has not been identified, but the company said that the person has been invited back to the restaurant to dine free.

Cavil was not immediately available to comment. A voice-mail message left with his mother, Jamie Swindle, was not returned. The Odessa American reported that he had apologized in an interview with a reporter.

After his story went viral, Cavil thanked supporters on Facebook who sent him money. But Cavil's Facebook posts about the incident have since been deleted and it is not clear whether his profile still exists.

At the time, Cavil gave an interview to an ABC affiliate in Texas in which he spoke about what he said was the history of his name and about how his faith was guiding him through the experience of supposedly being called a terrorist.

"It was not about the money," Cavil said. "It's about shedding a light on an issue I feel very passionately about."

## **British Official Drops Demand To Forgo Death Penalty In ISIS Case, But Government Hedges**

[Washington Post](#), July 23, 2018

Britain's home secretary last month sent a letter to Attorney General Jeff Sessions, stating that his government would drop a demand that two alleged Islamic State militants be spared the death penalty if convicted in a U.S. court, in an apparent bid to resolve a standoff between the countries over which one should take custody of the men.

The June 22 letter by Sajid Javid to Sessions sparked an uproar in Britain when it was described on Sunday in the Telegraph, a British newspaper. In response, Prime Minister Theresa May, through a spokeswoman, said the government's opposition to capital punishment remains unchanged.

That long-standing policy against the death penalty has been seen as one impediment to a prosecution in the United States of Alexandra Kotey and El Shafee Elsheikh, who allegedly belonged to a four-member Islamic State cell thought to have played a key role in torturing and killing American and British hostages. The men, whose British accents gave the cell its moniker the Beatles, were captured and detained in Syria.

U.S. prosecutors have requested that the British share evidence they've acquired, including a voice analysis that could aid in the identification of Kotey. But the British government had balked at sharing evidence without some assurance that it would not be used in a prosecution that might end in a death sentence.

Though some officials within May's conservative government are not averse to capital punishment, the British

public is staunchly against it. To reassure the public, Security Minister Ben Wallace on Monday told Parliament: "Our long-standing position on use of the death penalty has not changed. The U.K. has a long-standing policy of opposing the death penalty as a matter of principle, regardless of nationality."

The two militants, whose British citizenship was revoked over their alleged affiliation with the cell, are being held in Syria, where they were captured in February by the Kurdish-dominated Syrian Democratic Forces, the main ally of the United States in Syria.

"I am of the view that there are strong reasons for not requiring a death penalty assurance in this specific case, so no such assurances will be sought," Javid wrote in the letter, according to the Telegraph.

May's office told reporters that there was no contradiction between the government's opposition to the death penalty and Javid's decision not to seek an assurance against execution.

"It's an extraordinary statement about the British reluctance to prosecute these men, that they're willing to withdraw requirements that they have imposed on U.S. cooperation for so long," said Nicholas J. Lewin, a former counterterrorism prosecutor in Manhattan. "It strikes me as a finely honed effort to get the U.S. to take these guys and prosecute them."

Some relatives of the victims, including the mother of James Foley, have spoken out against seeking the death penalty, saying they would prefer that the men serve life in prison.

The Telegraph also reported that according to other documents, British officials have assessed that Kotev and Elsheikh may be sent to the U.S. military detention facility at Guantanamo Bay and that such an outcome would not be formally opposed.

Wallace, the security minister, appeared to dispute that possibility, too. "The U.K. government's long-standing position is that the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay should close. Where we share evidence with the [United States], it must be for the express purpose of progressing a criminal prosecution and we have made that clear to the United States," he told parliament.

It is not clear what impact Javid's letter to Sessions has had on Trump administration deliberations over how to handle the militants. Although career prosecutors think they can win at trial, Sessions personally favors sending the men to Guantanamo. And the position of the State and Defense departments has been that Britain, as the militants' country of origin, should take them for prosecution.

The National Security Council declined to discuss the matter, issuing the following statement: "President Trump is committed to using all available tools to defeat terrorism and protect the United States homeland and its interests abroad.

Decisions regarding the disposition of captured terrorists will be made on a case-by-case basis, taking into account legal requirements and the facts of each case."

A Justice Department spokesman also declined to comment on the matter. "The president and his national security team will pursue the option that best protects the national security interests of the United States," spokesman Wyn Hornbuckle said.

Christopher Costa, who until earlier this year was Trump's senior director for counterterrorism and who now heads the International Spy Museum, said: "My bottom line is these individuals have to face justice, and right now the best form of justice would be the United States criminal justice system."

## **NATIONAL SECURITY NEWS**

### **Why Russian Spies Really Like American Universities**

By Daniel Golden

[ProPublica](#), July 23, 2018

Under the alias Cynthia Murphy, Russian spy Lydia Guryeva attended Columbia Business School, and ingratiated herself with a key fundraiser for Hillary Clinton's 2008 presidential campaign. Guryeva's instructions from Moscow, according to a 2010 FBI complaint, were to "strengthen...ties w. classmates on daily basis incl. professors who can help in job search and who will have (or already have) access to secret info" and to report "on their detailed personal data and character traits w. preliminary conclusions about their potential (vulnerability) to be recruited by Service."

Now another graduate student at an urban East Coast university, who similarly cultivated powerbrokers and political operatives, is accused of being a Russian spy and taking orders from high-ranking officials in her homeland. Maria Butina, who received a master's degree in international relations this past spring from American University in Washington, D.C., courted the National Rifle Association's top guns and sought access to Republican presidential candidates Scott Walker and Donald Trump. She pleaded innocent last week to charges of conspiring to act as a foreign agent.

If the charges against Butina are accurate, she's only the latest in a long line of Russian agents to infiltrate U.S. universities. Dating back to the Soviet era, Russian spies have sought to take advantage of academia's lax security, collaborative, global culture, and revolving door with government. Russian intelligence understands that today's professor of international relations may be tomorrow's assistant secretary of state, and vice versa. Although cyber-spying and hacking offer opportunities to glean secrets at less personal risk, the traditional strategies of human espionage

persist, and sending a spy to school is prominent among them. Get ProPublica's Major Investigations by Email

In that respect, little has changed since 1938, when Semyon Markovich Semyonov became the first Soviet agent to enroll at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and made contacts vital to stealing scientific secrets. Or since 1958, when KGB officer Oleg Kalugin entered Columbia's journalism school. After graduation, posing as a Radio Moscow correspondent at the United Nations, Kalugin attended events at Columbia and reported back on them to Moscow. His report on a speech about U.S.-Soviet relations by Zbigniew Brzezinski, then a Columbia professor and later national security adviser to President Jimmy Carter, earned kudos from the Communist Party's Central Committee.

After that, "I went all across the country, from Harvard to Columbia and the West Coast, listening to what people said and reporting it if I thought it was interesting," Kalugin told me. He rose to head the KGB's foreign counterintelligence branch before falling out of favor in Russia, moving to Washington, D.C., and becoming an American citizen.

Sometimes, Russian agents join the academic community as students or instructors. Of Guryeva and the other nine "illegals" — sleeper agents without diplomatic cover — who pleaded guilty in 2010 to conspiring to act as foreign agents and were swapped back to Russia, seven went to U.S. universities, including Harvard, The New School, and the University of Washington. One taught politics for a semester at Baruch College, lambasting American foreign policy.

In other cases, agents hold diplomatic posts at an embassy or consulate and forage in nearby campuses for recruits and information. It's easier, cheaper and less conspicuous for Russian intelligence to enlist a student or professor who can be steered to a federal agency than to lure someone already in a sensitive government position. Exploiting open campuses, spies slip unnoticed into lectures, seminars and cafeterias, where they befriend the computer scientist or Pentagon adviser sitting beside them.

Butina enrolled in American University's School of International Service in the summer of 2016, university spokesman Mark Story said. She concentrated in cyber policy and became a research assistant at the university's Kogod School of Business. With research funding from the Kogod Cybersecurity Governance Center, she and two professors, Mark A. Clark and J. Alberto Espinosa, co-authored a March 2018 paper on "Cybersecurity Knowledge Networks." (The paper is still on the center's website.) Clark and Espinosa declined comment.

The cybersecurity center was founded in 2015 to provide "guidance specifically to boards of directors, senior executives, and other leaders so that they can make informed decisions about cybersecurity." It has a partnership with

defense contractor Raytheon Co., and was headed from June 2017 to March 2018 by a former lawyer for the National Security Agency.

University spokesman Story declined to say whether Butina's involvement with the center raises any concerns, or if the university plans to review her activities. He added that the center doesn't do classified work and has no contracts with intelligence agencies.

Raytheon spokesman Michael Doble said, "There is no connection between our support of this respected school and what one of its students may or may not have done."

Butina participated in February 2017 in a "weekend of seminars and cultural immersion" in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, which brought together 10 American University students from Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Azerbaijan with a dozen students from Gettysburg College to discuss U.S.-Russian relations in the post-Soviet era. Susan Eisenhower — a frequent adviser to businesses and the U.S. Department of Energy, and an expert on foreign policy and national security issues — led the seminars as well as a tour of the Gettysburg home of her grandfather, President Dwight Eisenhower.

Eisenhower said she wasn't involved in selecting the American University students. She told me that when the delegation arrived, "I thought it was odd because she [Butina] was a graduate student and the other students were undergraduates. She played a prominent role in the discussions."

Eisenhower added, "Any group of foreign students could possibly include students who have been called upon by their intelligence service. But we can't isolate ourselves in a globalized world, and these exchanges play a role in enhancing mutual understanding."

After the sessions, Butina wrote to Eisenhower, mentioning people they knew in common. Eisenhower answered politely, but was determined to avoid a continuing relationship, she said.

Prosecutors contend that a 56-year-old American — unidentified in court documents, but reportedly a South Dakota businessman and political fundraiser — edited Butina's papers and answered exam questions for her. "Although she attended classes and completed coursework with outside help, attending American University was Butina's cover," the U.S. attorney's office in Washington, D.C., said in a legal filing. Story declined comment on the cheating allegations, but noted that, under university policy, it reserves the right to revoke academic credentials acquired through "deceit, fraud, or misrepresentation." Robert Driscoll, lawyer for Maria Butina, speaks to members of the media after a hearing in Washington, D.C., U.S., on July 18.

(Yuri Gripas/Bloomberg via Getty Images)

Beyond the university, Butina wooed gun-rights activists and influential conservatives. Shortly after Clinton called

Trump to concede defeat on the morning of Nov. 9, 2016, Butina sent a direct Twitter message to a Russian official: "I am ready for further orders."

As the use of Twitter suggests, one of the puzzling aspects of this case is the seemingly slapdash tradecraft compared to Russian intelligence's usual standards. By contrast, Guryeva funneled names of potential Columbia recruits to Moscow Center via radiograms or electronic messages concealed by special software. Butina's lawyer has said she simply takes an interest in American politics and is not a Russian agent.

In an interview for my 2017 book, "Spy Schools," a professor at one top-tier East Coast university described how Russian intelligence tried to recruit him. After he moderated a campus discussion on arms control, a Russian diplomat approached him and invited him to lunch. Suspicious, the professor checked with the FBI, which confirmed that the diplomat was a Russian agent and advised playing along. The bureau wanted to use the professor as a double agent to learn about "Russian collection priorities, tradecraft, and things like that," he told me. "Just knowing what the other side is really interested in is very valuable."

Over the next two years, the Russian and the FBI each treated the professor to 10 lunches. He would dine with the Russian spy at Mexican restaurants, French bistros and steakhouses — never the same place twice, because his host was worried about counter-surveillance. The Russian always paid cash: \$100 bills. Afterward, the professor would call the FBI agents, who would take him to lunch a few days later and debrief him.

The spy plied the professor with gifts of increasing value: first a fine bottle of Posolskaya vodka, then an \$800 Victorinox Swiss Army watch, and finally, in return for an essay about the Afghanistan war, \$2,000 in \$100 bills. The authoritative-sounding essay didn't enthrall Russian intelligence. "We appreciate it, but we didn't think it was that sensitive," the spy told the professor, who had followed the FBI's instructions not to divulge any secrets. "We can pay you more if you give us more."

The agent also encouraged the professor to seek a job in the State Department or Pentagon—where, both men understood without saying, Russia would pay dearly for an inside source. After the spy rotated back to Moscow, the relationship — and the professor's moonlighting in espionage — ended.

In 2013, the FBI recorded two Russian spies under diplomatic cover, Igor Sporyshev and Victor Pobodnyy, discussing efforts to recruit several young women with ties to New York University. Both men specialized in economic espionage and were supposed to gather information on U.S. alternative energy initiatives, as well as on sanctions against Russia. That same year, in a classic example of how spies mine conferences for prospects, Pobodnyy—using his cover

as a diplomatic attache—met Carter Page at an energy symposium in New York. Pobodnyy then received documents about the energy business from Page, later a Trump campaign foreign policy adviser whose communications were monitored by the FBI as part of an investigation into links between the campaign and Russia. In July 2016, Page gave a speech at the New Economic School, a Moscow university, exchanging "nice pleasantries" afterwards with Russia's deputy prime minister.

Page has denied any wrongdoing, saying, "I had a very brief hello to a couple of people. That was it." The nexus between espionage and academia has surfaced elsewhere in the Trump-Russia imbroglio. One incident involved a professor in the United Kingdom — hardly a surprise, since Russian intelligence has long been notorious for recruiting communist sympathizers from British universities, including Kim Philby and the other "Cambridge Five."

Joseph Mifsud has been a professor at the University of East Anglia and the University of Stirling in Scotland (which touted his meeting with Russian president and ex-intelligence officer Vladimir Putin), as well as honorary director of the London Academy of Diplomacy. In 2016, he told George Papadopoulos, a foreign policy adviser to the Trump campaign, that the Russians had "dirt" on then-candidate Hillary Clinton in the form of "thousands of emails," according to court documents and media reports. Papadopoulos, who pleaded guilty in October 2017 to lying to federal agents, understood that Mifsud had "substantial connections to Russian government officials," and had met with them immediately before telling him about the Clinton emails, legal filings show.

Mifsud has denied being a Russian agent. "I am an academic, I do not even speak Russian," he told *The Washington Post*.

U.S. universities, ever-sensitive to their finances and global relationships, have largely ignored the threat of foreign espionage: They're ramping up enrollment of full-paying international students as well as opening campuses abroad, which are often subsidized by the host countries. Columbia didn't revoke Murphy's diploma after she turned out to be a spy named Guryeva — though Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government did rescind the degree of another "illegal," Andrey Bezrukov, who had posed as a Canadian named Donald Heathfield. Story declined to say whether, if Butina is convicted, the university will take away her degree.

Annie Waldman contributed to this story.

Parts of this article were adapted from "Spy Schools: How the CIA, FBI, and Foreign Intelligence Secretly Exploit America's Universities" (Holt, 2017), by Daniel Golden.



## **OTHER DHS NEWS**

### **GEO Group Helps Boost Lobbying Revenue Of Ballard Partners**

By Kate Ackley

[CQ Roll Call \(DC\)](#), July 23, 2018

The private prison company GEO Group paid a Trump-connected lobbying firm \$150,000 for seeking to influence the federal government during the second quarter of this year, according to a recent disclosure report to Congress.

The disclosure from Ballard Partners also says that the GEO Group doesn't take a position "on immigration enforcement policies or detention policies," as such issues have generated widespread controversy in recent months.

That came amid fallout over a Trump administration policy to separate children from their parents who entered the country without legal documentation or were seeking asylum. The GEO Group manages detention facilities on behalf of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency.

GEO Group has paid Ballard Partners a total of \$300,000 for lobbying during the first half of 2018, on pace to exceed the \$550,000 GEO paid Ballard Partners in 2017 when it boosted its lobbying efforts.

Brian Ballard, a prominent Florida lobbyist who previously represented the Trump Organization there and is a leading fundraiser for the Trump campaign, leads the firm and was listed among the firm's lobbyists for the GEO Group.

Ballard and other officials with the firm did not respond to a request for comment. But Ballard Partners, which opened its Washington outpost to coincide with the beginning of the Trump administration, disclosed lobbying the departments of Justice and Labor on legal, immigration and other matters, according to the disclosure.

"Promoting the use of public-private partnerships in correctional services, including evidence-based rehabilitation programs aimed at reducing recidivism," the disclosure said in describing the lobbying work. "GEO does not advocate for or against criminal justice policy related to criminalizing certain behaviors or length of criminal sentences, nor does GEO take a position on immigration enforcement policies or detention policies."

The GE OGroup is one of Ballard Partners' biggest federal lobbying contracts for the second quarter of 2018, which covers April 1 through June 30, but it is not the biggest.

Ballard Partners disclosed bringing in \$190,000 during the second quarter from the law firm Patino & Associates for work on behalf of Valentina and Bogdan Georgescu, according to a congressional lobbying disclosure, for lobbying the State Department including on "Immigration Policy and Processing."

Its other federal lobbying clients during the second quarter of the year included Amazon.com, the Motion Picture

Association of America, the University of Miami and Sprint. All told, the firm has reported about \$8.6 million in federal lobbying revenue so far this year, compared with just shy of \$10 million for all of 2017, according to congressional lobbying filings. Second quarter lobbying disclosure reports are due late Friday night.

### **Bus Rider Films Border Patrol Agent Questioning Citizenship, Compares To 'Nazi Germany'**

By Benjamin Fearnow

[Newsweek](#), July 23, 2018

The woman who recorded a now-viral video of a Border Patrol agent questioning bus riders' citizenship in New Mexico said the incident felt like "living in Nazi Germany."

Los Angeles teacher Yolanda Varela Gonzalez was on a bus ride between Los Angeles and El Paso, Texas, this week when the bus stopped at a U.S. Customs and Border Protection checkpoint in Deming, New Mexico. Her cellphone recording showed a Border Patrol agent walking down the aisle of the bus, peering into the bathroom and asking people for citizenship papers. "You a citizen? Are you a citizen? Great," the agent can be heard asking.

In the video, Gonzalez verbally chastises the Border Patrol agent as he walks up and down the aisle looking for proof of citizenship from riders.

"I understand you're not allowed to ask for that within 100 miles of the border.... No, it's not right, this is what—living in Nazi Germany where you need to show your I.D. within the states, this is bulls\*\*t," Gonzalez is heard saying.

Her remark appears to reference the 1935 Nuremberg Laws, which the Nazi Party government enacted to revoke citizenship based upon a racist and anti-Semitic ideology.

"Who are you? You know my job?" the agent can be seen asking Gonzalez in the two-minute Facebook video, which has been viewed nearly 85,000 times since it was posted July 19.

"You know you guys are terrorizing people?" Gonzalez responds. The two engage in a brief spat over the agent saying his own name and that he disliked her filming him doing his job. The Facebook post has the caption "#F\*\*\*ThePolimigra #F\*\*\*ICE #AbolishICE."

"Crying, screaming against the injustices against my people. Why so much hate? They judge us by our skin color & language but we jWon't take it any longer!" Gonzalez wrote on Facebook.

But the checkpoint questioning by the federal employee is legal under an "external boundary" regulation that skirts the Fourth Amendment's constitutional protection of Americans from random and arbitrary stops and searches. Under the federal regulation, a 100-mile zone extends out from all U.S. borders, allowing Border Patrol to operate immigration

checkpoints like the one seen in the video. But roughly two-thirds of the U.S. population lives within that 100-mile border zone, and according to the American Civil Liberties Union, Border Patrol agents routinely overstep their legal limitations.

Several similar videos have emerged of Border Patrol agents casually walking up and down bus waiting lines asking people if they are U.S. citizens. Last month, a Border Patrol officer in Bangor, Maine, which is within the 100-mile border boundary, asked a line of passengers, "Are you folks U.S. citizens?"

Concord Coach Lines, which operates the bus route, said it has "no partnership, agreement or collaboration with Customs and Border Protection." Instead, the company issued a statement claiming the federal agents "arrive without any forewarning."

Gonzalez told KOAT-TV she was traveling back to Los Angeles after visiting her mother in El Paso. She said that while she understands the agent was just doing "their job," she wants a broader conversation about the racial and civil rights problems behind such laws.

"It really boils down to how people are being treated regardless of how many miles it is, the fact that people are living in fear," Gonzalez said in a Skype interview with KOAT. "And yes, it's racial profiling, and that is just a violation. Any sort of racial profiling is a violation of human rights and civil rights.... I understand that they are employed and this is their job, but I think it's a conversation that needs to seriously occur on a much larger scale. This isn't about one bus, this isn't about one Border Patrol agent, this is really about the whole system."

U.S. Customs and Border Patrol responded in a public statement about the viral video, explaining: "The purpose of U.S. Border Patrol Immigration Checkpoints is to conduct effective immigration inspections and halting smuggling and other illicit activity from reaching the interior of the United States.

"Border Patrol Agents work within their authority to conduct these inspections within 100 miles of the border, as authorized by law and Supreme Court rulings. This important role is vital in protecting our nation," the statement said.

## **Portland Mayor To ICE Occupiers: Disband Now**

[Oregonian](#), July 23, 2018

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler on Monday warned protesters camping at the Portland office of the federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency to disband before they are removed by police.

During a press conference at City Hall, Wheeler, flanked by Commissioner Chloe Eudaly, Chief Danielle Outlaw and Fire Marshal Nate Takara, said occupiers should "peacefully disengage."

The mayor said officials will post a camp sweep notice Monday evening. Protesters will have until Tuesday to leave voluntarily, according to a city notice. The notice states that protesters who remain may be face citation or arrest for trespassing, illegal camping and building structures on public rights of way.

Occupiers set up a makeshift camp five weeks ago at a building leased by ICE on Southwest Macadam Avenue and have been at the building around the clock since. They said their intention is to protest the Trump administration's policy of separating children and parents who are detained after border crossings and seek the abolishment of ICE.

The field office closed for days because protesters blocked its entrances. Several demonstrators were detained and charged with misdemeanors when federal police moved to reopen the building. Protesters carried on, with tensions between their ranks and federal officers flaring up on occasion.

Demonstrations came to a head last week, when members of the right-wing Patriot Prayer group came to the campsite and argued with protesters. Three demonstrators were arrested at the time for crossing police lines and preventing access to the building.

A faction of protesters left voluntarily Monday, Eudaly said. Wheeler encouraged others to follow suit.

Wheeler said he supports protesters' cause, but believes the camp-out demonstration is no longer "sustainable."

"To all demonstrators: I urge you to keep up this effort," Wheeler said. He added that he believes it is time for protesters to "move on" and focus on changing immigration policy, rather than camping at the ICE field office.

Wheeler declined to answer reporters' questions about what would happen to protesters who do not leave voluntarily and what he considers an acceptable demonstration, saying he would not "answer hypotheticals."

Occupiers announced Monday that they cannot achieve their goal of abolishing ICE "using occupation as a tactic alone," according to a statement sent by Occupy ICE PDX.

"We need to diversify and evolve our tactics in order to level this many-tiered beast," the announcement said, adding that protesters intend to "decentralize the movement" and "transition" out of an occupation.

Occupy ICE PDX gave a conflicting message on Twitter. Following Wheeler's press conference, the group tweeted, "Camp consensus: We don't move until ICE is out of Portland and abolished."

A spokesman for the demonstration Monday evening said protesters would continue to "hold our ground," and called on others in the city to join them at the encampment.

"We are going to be here, we are not going anywhere until [the Trump administration's] zero tolerance policy is

lifted, until the last child is reunited with their parents, until not another local family is separated by ICE,” said Jacob Bureros.

He said a four-person Occupy ICE PDX committee working as liaisons with Portland City Hall earlier released an “autonomous statement” about decentralizing the movement, but a poll taken later at the encampment showed the majority of people there favored staying put. Bureros said avenues of negotiation with city hall closed when city officials informed them that there was no legal way to remove ICE from Portland.

“This movement started because we were tired of waiting for the politicians and the so-called leaders to fix this,” Bureros said. “We were tired of waiting for the rigged system to bring this to a reasonable end. We needed to stand up and do this ourselves.”

Portland police officers later escorted people through the encampment who posted notices of intent to “clear the unlawful campsite” starting Tuesday. Anyone who doesn’t leave could be arrested or cited, the signs said.

Everton Bailey Jr. of The Oregonian/OregonLive contributed to this report.

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## **Portland Food Cart That Helps The Homeless Shut Down After Alleged Harassment From Occupy ICE Protesters**

By Neetu Chandak  
[Daily Caller](#), July 23, 2018

A Portland non-profit food cart was shut down after the owners faced alleged harassment from Occupy ICE protesters Friday.

The Happy Camper Food Cart, founded by Scott and Julie Hakes in 2017, raised funds to help the homeless through the project Operation Off The Grid. The stand was across the street from the Portland Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) building, where protesters have held demonstrations since June.

“Unfortunately over the last month, we have been threatened and verbally attacked for not backing the immigration agenda at the DHS location and wanting to stay neutral and serve all who are hungry,” said the The Happy Camper Food Cart Facebook post on July 20.

It started when one of the protesters yelled at his daughter with a mega-horn because they thought the daughter was making fun of them. The daughter is overheard saying, “Do you hear them? They think I am laughing at them,” in video footage provided to KATU2 by Scott.

“They’re constantly cussing at her and screaming at her,” Scott said to KATU2. “She finally had enough. She

called me up on the phone, crying. I said ‘Breanna, shut the doors, we’re done.’”

The protesters threatened to burn down the cart “at least three times,” Scott told Fox 12 on Sunday. Harassment toward the customers also got so bad that business went down by 80 percent.

“We were down to making \$50 a day,” Scott said to KATU2. “I think there was one day we made \$25.”

The owners tried to talk with the protesters in hopes of coming to peaceful solutions, but they were forced to either stand with the protesters or deal with the consequences, according to the Facebook post.

“We no longer feel secure operating in the south waterfront neighborhood at this time especially after several calls to the PD in regards to harassment towards our customers, property vandalism and intimidation tactics used to stop anyone from wanting to return,” the Facebook post said. “We did not receive one visit from PD to write a report or to help with these matters. So, we have no choice but to move forward with other ideas for future funding for the organization.”

A Portland Police spokesperson confirmed that there was at least one report of the threats along with video, according to KATU2.

Antonio Zamora, co-founder for Occupy ICE PDX, said to KATU2 the organization does not stand for harassment and goes against the code of conduct. (RELATED: Occupy ICE Protesters Behead Trump Piñata With Guillotine)

The owners are selling the food cart for \$29,999, less than what was put toward the cart.

The couple knew they wanted to help the homeless after facing homelessness themselves, according to the Operation Off The Grid website. They will still try to raise funds for their non-profit through other means, according to KATU2.

## **Dem Rep Nadler: If Reunification Deadline Is Missed, I’d Jail Nielsen, Azar, And ICE Head**

By Ian Hanchett  
[Breitbart](#), July 23, 2018

On Monday’s broadcast of CNN’s “At This Hour,” House Judiciary Committee Ranking Member Representative Jerry Nadler (D-NY) that if the Trump administration misses the deadline to reunite children who were separated from their families at the border with their families, Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen, HHS Secretary Alex Azar, and acting ICE Director Ronald Vitiello should be put in jail.

Nadler said, “[T]hey’re in effect kidnapping children. They made no arrangements or plans to return the kids to their parents. They had no real reason to do this. They said — some of them were honest enough to say that they were

terrorizing children as a deterrent to people abroad not to come here to apply for political asylum. And when you have a court order, a court order is not a suggestion. It's not aspirational. And people should be held in contempt of court if they do not obey the court order. They're not doing very much to obey the court order."

He added, "If I were the judge, I would call the secretary of Homeland Security, the secretary of Health and Human Services, and the head of ICE, and I would put them in front of me. And I'd say, you will go to jail until the kids are reunited, in civil contempt. Because it's the only way, apparently, to get them to obey the law."

Follow Ian Hanchett on Twitter @IanHanchett

## **GLOBAL MEDIA**

### **Immigration And The Border Are Suddenly Tough Issues For Trudeau**

By Josh Wingrove

[Bloomberg News](#), July 23, 2018

Justin Trudeau's latest headache is unusual for a country bounded by three oceans and just one neighbor: the border.

Canada has seen a steady flow of asylum seekers since Donald Trump's election, with people who fear the U.S. will deport them or reject their bids for asylum crossing the 4,000-mile undefended border and filing a claim. While the total numbers are relatively modest, the influx has strained resources and prompted calls for more funding.

The issue has the Canadian prime minister caught between demands for tighter security and his own pledge of open arms. The controversy has ramped up in recent weeks, in part because of Ontario's election of a conservative government led by populist Doug Ford. He and two other premiers have called on Trudeau to act, and a political sparring match is underway over what values are more Canadian: welcoming refugees, even those arriving illegally, or securing the border?

Trudeau moved to quiet the storm last week by naming Bill Blair, a former police chief, as minister for border security. "When conservatives across the country are playing the fear card, we need strong, reassuring voices to counter that," the prime minister said Wednesday after shuffling his cabinet. He warned that his rivals have begun "a very dangerous game" by "pitting Canadians against each other and raising the kinds of anxieties that quite frankly don't help solve problems." Quebec Crossings

Canada and the U.S. have signed a Safe Third Country Agreement, which means they generally don't accept refugee claims already being made in the other nation. But there's a hitch: Someone who enters Canada anywhere other than a

regular border crossing, such as an airport, can make a claim, even if the act of crossing is illegal.

The issue is most prominent in Quebec, where it's been percolating for 18 months. A makeshift processing center has even been built in the French-speaking province, at a border crossing that had been little more than a dirt path through a ditch.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police arrested waves of people as they exited taxis, dragged out luggage and crossed over from New York state. Last August, more than 5,700 people were arrested crossing illegally into Canada – nearly all in Quebec, where at one point Montreal's Olympic Stadium was commandeered to help handle the influx. But this year, the arrest average has been about 1,800 per month nationwide. The province has nonetheless asked Ottawa to speed up processing times for asylum claims and warned it won't ensure housing to an unlimited number of migrants.

"These days, it's contained," said Jean-Pierre Fortin, head of the Customs and Immigration Union, which represents border workers and has been pressing the federal government for more resources. "If we get a spike like we got last year, that's where we do have some major concerns." Ontario Fight

Despite that, the rhetoric is becoming heated. A meeting of Canada's immigration ministers this month saw Trudeau's lead on the file, Ahmed Hussen, criticize those who conflate regular immigration with asylum seekers as "not Canadian." Ford's immigration minister, Lisa MacLeod, fired back and demanded Hussen apologize. "There is a problem at the border, the border must be enforced," she said, according to the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. "Ontario should be made whole for all of the costs that we have incurred."

Government data show her province hasn't had any illegal crossers detained all year, but some claimants are moving to Ontario. The country's federal Conservative Party, which governed from 2006 to 2015, has called the situation a crisis, but recently pulled an attack ad that showed a black man crossing into Canada over the text of a tweet from Trudeau welcoming refugees.

The premiers of Quebec and Manitoba – which, largely due to geography, received the most illegal crossers last year – joined Ford in confronting Trudeau last week. The trio issued a statement calling on the prime minister to "allocate the necessary resources to ensure the security of Canada's borders as part of a comprehensive, long-term plan" and to compensate provinces for services provided to asylum seekers. Trudeau Tweet

Canada admits roughly 300,000 immigrants per year under several categories, such as skilled workers. Trudeau champions that – and conservatives say that's part of the problem. The tweet featured in the pulled ad, which the prime minister sent shortly after Trump's inauguration, was seen to



have left a false impression that all claims are accepted, when in fact the country deports those whose refugee claims it doesn't deem legitimate.

"To those fleeing persecution, terror & war, Canadians will welcome you, regardless of your faith. Diversity is our strength," Trudeau wrote at the time. His government later dispatched lawmakers into certain U.S. communities to get the word out about what the rules actually are, while it scrambled to deal with an influx at the border.

Voters are uneasy about the illegal crossers, often referred to as "irregular" migrants, because they are legally entitled to make a claim even though the physical act of crossing a border like that is a crime. An Angus Reid poll released in September, just after the number of crossings peaked, found 53 percent of Canadians thought the country was being too generous to people who cross the border illegally. For past conservative voters, the number was 75 percent.

"Governments all around the world have to figure out how to respond when numbers go up and down. Canada has not always been that great at it," Janet Dench, head of the Canadian Council for Refugees, said in an interview. "It's like responding to fires – you don't get to plan how many fires you have or on what day of the week."

In too many countries abroad, politicians demonize refugees for political gain, she said, calling it "a very immoral thing to do, because you're picking on extremely vulnerable people." Dench added: "We're very anxious that Canada can continue to be a country where politicians know that you're not going to win votes by attacking refugees."

— With assistance by Sandrine Rastello

## **Federal Audit Highly Critical Of Canada's Treatment Of Immigration Detainees, Fueling Calls For Reform**

[Globe and Mail \(CAN\)](#), July 23, 2018

A highly critical federal audit is fuelling calls for fundamental reforms to Canada's border agency and the way it deals with detainees during investigations and immigration hearings.

The newly released audit of the Immigration and Refugee Board looks at hearings and decisions in randomly selected cases where immigration detention exceeded a minimum of 100 days.

While the external audit, commissioned by former IRB chairman Mario Dion, focuses on the Immigration Division of the board, it also shines a light on the role and behaviour of Canada Border Services Agency officers.

The audit uncovered inaccurate statements made by CBSA officers involved in board hearings, immigration adjudicators deciding the fate of cases based on false

information, and detainees left unrepresented and powerless at hearings.

The audit describes the relationship between the CBSA and the IRB as "regional" with the CBSA being more helpful in some areas than others. The CBSA was reported to be "tougher" in Ontario, more adversarial in their hearing conduct, and also more likely to overstate evidence or draw conclusions based on speculation rather than fact, states the report.

And in some hearings the Immigration Division official reported being "intimidated" by the "vehement positions" expressed by the CBSA hearing officer.

The border agency has authority to detain newcomers to Canada if they are deemed to be a danger to the public, their identity cannot be verified or they are considered a flight risk. The agency holds people in special facilities and, in many cases, in provincial jails across Canada.

In 2017, 3,557 individuals were held in immigration detention in Canada, a decrease from 3,870 detainees in 2016.

The Liberal government has promised to find more alternatives to detention. The CBSA is set to unveil new measures Tuesday intended to spur the release of refugee claimants and other foreign nationals into communities while their cases are being reviewed.

Meanwhile, the House of Commons immigration committee is scheduled to hold an extensive emergency meeting Tuesday on the issue of asylum seekers at the U.S.-Canada border. The committee will hear from federal ministers, experts and others.

The shortest period of detention reviewed by the auditors was four months and the longest was over seven years.

In its response to the audit, the IRB accepted the review's various recommendations for improvement, including working with the border agency on treating people in detention fairly.

Still, Josh Paterson, executive director of British Columbia Civil Liberties Association, said the audit findings "cry out" for fundamental change in the culture and conduct of the border agency.

"The audit reveals alarming misconduct on the part of CBSA, including misleading the immigration tribunal, some CBSA officers conducting themselves in a way that intimidates tribunal members, and failing in their duty to ensure that people are treated fairly and are deprived of their freedom only as a very last resort," said Paterson.

There should be a dedicated watchdog to hold CBSA accountable, Paterson said, adding the government needs to make good on its promise to have move oversight for the agency before the next election.

Lobat Sadrehashemi, president of the Canadian Association of Refugee Lawyers, said the audit is proof of



what advocates have known for years — that immigration detention in Canada is “cloaked in unfairness” and needs systemic reform.

Sadrehashemi echoed Paterson’s concerns about the CBSA and said many of the issues identified by the auditors have not been addressed.

“The government must act quickly to start a process of profound, systemic change in how CBSA operates. This audit makes clear that CBSA has seriously failed in their obligation, as representatives of the federal government, to treat people fairly and according to law.”

## **NATIONAL NEWS**

### **Donald Trump Threatens To Revoke Security Clearances Of Comey, Brennan, Clapper**

By Dave Boyer And S.A. Miller

[Washington Times](#), July 23, 2018

President Trump has threatened to revoke security clearance from top Obama administration officials who have been outspoken about alleged Trump campaign collusion with Russia, the White House said Monday.

On the list for revoking security clearances are former FBI Director James Comey, former FBI Deputy Director Andrew McCabe, former CIA Director John Brennan, former National Security Adviser Susan Rice and former Director of National Security James Clapper.

“The president is exploring these mechanisms to remove their security clearance because they’ve politicized and in some cases actually monetized their public service security clearances, and making baseless accusations of improper contact with Russia or being influenced by Russia against the president is extremely inappropriate,” said White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders.

She said it was “extremely inappropriate” for those former officials to use their top-level security clearance to promote “false accusations” about the president and his campaign’s ties to Moscow spies.

“The president contends that the fact that people with security clearances are making these baseless charges provides inappropriate legitimacy to accusations with zero evidence,” said Mrs. Sanders.

The White House was exploring the process to revoke the security clearance, she said.

Mr. Clapper responded on CNN, “It’s kind of a sad commentary, where for political reasons, this is kind of a petty way of retribution, I suppose, for speaking out against the president.” He said all of the former officials have been speaking “out of genuine concerns about President Trump.”

McCabe spokeswoman Melissa Schwartz said on Twitter, “Andrew McCabe’s security clearance was deactivated when he was terminated, according to what we

were told was FBI policy. You would think the White House would check with the FBI before trying to throw shiny objects to the press corps.”

Some of the former officials have been at odds with Mr. Trump since his election. Several have made regular appearances on TV news shows to speculate about Trump campaign collusion with Russia or to criticize the president’s dealing with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Mr. Brennan took several jabs at the president last week following his summit with Mr. Putin in Helsinki, Finland.

“Donald Trump’s press conference performance in Helsinki rises to & exceeds the threshold of “high crimes & misdemeanors.” It was nothing short of treasonous. Not only were Trump’s comments imbecilic, he is wholly in the pocket of Putin. Republican Patriots: Where are you???” tweeted Mr. Brennan.

In another tweet, Mr. Brennan wrote: Why did Trump meet 1 on 1 with Putin? What might he be hiding from Bolton, Pompeo, Kelly, & the American public? How will Putin use whatever Trump could be hiding to advantage Russia & hurt America? Trump’s total lack of credibility renders spurious whatever explanation he gives.”

Mr. Comey has been engaged in an escalating war of words with Mr. Trump since the president fired him in May 2017.

Ms. Rice said Sunday on a talk show that she didn’t know what Mr. Trump’s motivations are for seeking a better relationship with Russia, adding, “I think that’s a legitimate question.”

She called Mr. Trump’s one-on-one meeting with Mr. Putin “a historic mistake.”

As national security adviser under Mr. Obama, Ms. Rice was widely criticized for initially explaining the terrorist attack on U.S. personnel in Benghazi, Libya, in 2012 as a spontaneous protest against an anti-Muslim video produced in the U.S. The performance prevented her from being nominated as secretary of state.

Mr. Clapper, a frequent critic of the president, raised questions last August on CNN about Mr. Trump’s “ability to be—his fitness to be—in this office. I also am beginning to wonder about his motivation for it—maybe he is looking for a way out.”

Mr. Hayden has written a book this year entitled “The Assault on Intelligence: American National Security in an Age of Lies.” He said on CBS this spring of Mr. Trump, “We’ve had presidents who disagree with us; we’ve had presidents who lie. We’ve not had presidents for whom objective reality doesn’t seem to be compelling.”

Former intelligence officials typically keep their high-level security clearances after leaving their government jobs, sometimes providing informal advice to current officials. The announcement came shortly after Mr. Trump met with Sen.

Rand Paul, Kentucky Republican, who said he planned to urge the president to revoke Mr. Brennan's clearance.

Mr. Paul tweeted after meeting, "I restated to him what I have said in public: John Brennan and others partisans should have their security clearances revoked."

Democrats blasted the move as retaliation for free speech.

"This is what totalitarianism looks like," tweeted Sen. Mazie Hirono, Hawaii Democrat.

Former House Intelligence Committee Chairman Mike Rogers, a Republican, called Mr. Trump's action "petty, and it's certainly below the stature of the office of the president of the United States." "I just wish that the president would be bigger than that," Mr. Rogers said on CNN.

He added of Mr. Brennan, "It's also not customary for the former CIA director to be off the reservation where he is, either. I don't think John Brennan should do it."

Mrs. Sanders rejected the accusation that the president was seeking to punish the former officials for exercising their First Amendment right to free speech.

"The president doesn't like the fact that people are politicizing agencies and departments that are specifically meant to not be political and not meant to be monetized off of security clearances," she said. "The president is not making baseless accusations of improper contact with a foreign government and accusing the president of the United States of treasonous activity when you have the highest level of security clearance, when you're the person that holds the nation's deepest, most-sacred secrets at your hands, and you go out and you make false accusations against the president of the United States. He thinks that is something to be very concerned with, and we're exploring what those options are and what that looks like."

## **Striking At Critics, Trump Threatens Stripping Former Officials Of Security Clearances**

By Steve Holland

[Reuters](#), July 23, 2018

Full-text stories from Reuters currently cannot be included in this document. You may, however, click the link above to access the story.

## **Trump's Blacklist: White House Considers Targeting Security Clearances**

By Axios

[Axios](#), July 23, 2018

White House press secretary Sarah Sanders told reporters Monday that President Trump is considering revoking former CIA Director John Brennan's security clearance, as well as those of several other former intelligence officials, claiming they've "politicized and in some cases actually monetized their public service security

clearances" and have made "baseless accusations" against the president.

Why it matters: These former intelligence officials have all been quick to criticize the president, with Brennan being a leading voice of opposition following Trump's summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin. As some White House reporters pointed out in the briefing, revoking their clearances has the optics of political retaliation.

Others on Trump's blacklist: Former Director of National Intelligence James Clapper, former FBI Director James Comey, former National Security Advisor Director Michael Hayden, former National Security Advisor Susan Rice, and former FBI Deputy Director Andrew McCabe.

"The president is exploring these mechanisms to remove their security clearance because they've politicized and in some cases actually monetized their public service security clearances, and making baseless accusations of improper contact with Russia or being influenced by Russia against the president is extremely inappropriate. The president contends that the fact that people with security clearances are making these baseless charges provides inappropriate legitimacy to accusations with zero evidence."

— Sarah Sanders

## **Sanders: Trump Considering Removing Security Clearances For Obama-era Officials**

By Morgan Chalfant

[The Hill](#), July 23, 2018

White House press secretary Sarah Sanders on Monday said that President Trump is exploring whether to remove the security clearance of former CIA Director John Brennan and other top Obama-era intelligence officials.

Sanders accused Brennan, former Director of National Intelligence James Clapper, former FBI Director James Comey and others of "politicizing" and "monetizing" their public service.

"They've politicized and in some cases monetized their public service and security clearances," Sanders said during the daily briefing. "Making baseless accusations of improper contact with Russia, or begin influenced by Russia against the president is extremely inappropriate and the fact that people with security clearances are making these baseless charges provides inappropriate legitimacy to accusations with zero evidence."

Sanders' comments came after Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) suggested on Twitter that Brennan should have his security clearance revoked.

"Is John Brennan monetizing his security clearance? Is John Brennan making millions of dollars divulging secrets to the mainstream media with his attacks on @realDonaldTrump?" Paul wrote. He said he was meeting

Monday to ask Trump to remove Brennan's security clearance.

Brennan and other former officials have been publicly critical of the president's comments about Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election.

Trump sparked bipartisan criticism last week when he cast doubt on the intelligence community's assessment of Russian election interference — a remark he later walked back.

Sanders also said Monday that Trump is "looking to take away" security clearances belonging to former Obama national security adviser Susan Rice and former FBI deputy director Andrew McCabe — the FBI official who was fired by Attorney General Jeff Sessions in March before the publication of an inspector general report that criticized his conduct.

## **Trump Weighs Stripping Security Clearances From Officials Who Criticized Him**

By Julian E. Barnes And Julie Hirschfeld Davis  
[New York Times](#), July 23, 2018

President Trump threatened on Monday to strip the security clearances of former national security officials who have criticized his refusal to confront Russia over its election interference, a move that would apply the powers of the presidency to retaliate against some of his most outspoken detractors.

Sarah Huckabee Sanders, the White House press secretary, said Mr. Trump was considering revoking the clearances of John O. Brennan, the former C.I.A. director; James B. Comey, fired by Mr. Trump as F.B.I. director last year; and James R. Clapper Jr., the former director of national intelligence, among others.

"The president is exploring the mechanisms to remove security clearances because they politicized and in some cases monetized their public service and security clearances," Ms. Sanders said.

The suggestion was an unusual politicization of the security clearance process and is the latest turn in an effort by Mr. Trump to deflect scrutiny from his meeting last week with President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia, whom he sided with over his own intelligence community in casting doubt about whether Moscow attacked the 2016 presidential election.

She also said Mr. Trump is looking to strip the security clearance of Susan Rice, Mr. Obama's national security adviser, and Michael V. Hayden, the former head of the C.I.A. and National Security Agency during the George W. Bush administration.

She also singled out Andrew G. McCabe, the former deputy director of the F.B.I., who was fired this year over a lack of candor about his dealings with reporters. Mr. McCabe

does not have an active security clearance. Mr. Comey has also had no security clearance for about a year, according to a person briefed on the matter.

Security clearances allow former officials to work with companies on classified programs and provide advice to those firms and sometimes to government agencies. Stripping their clearances could harm their ability to work as consultants and advisers in Washington.

Ms. Sanders' announcement came hours after Senator Rand Paul, Republican of Kentucky, said he would be meeting with Mr. Trump and raising the issue of stripping Mr. Brennan of his security clearance.

Following the meeting on Monday afternoon, Mr. Paul said in a post on Twitter that he had told the president "what I have said in public: John Brennan and others partisans should have their security clearances revoked."

"Public officials should not use their security clearances to leverage speaking fees or network talking head fees," Mr. Paul added.

Mr. Trump has had a longstanding obsession with questioning the professionalism of former intelligence and national security officials who served under Mr. Obama, accusing them of being partisans who politicized their findings for the sole purpose of tarnishing him. After he met with Mr. Putin last fall on the sideline of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Danang, Vietnam, Mr. Trump savaged them publicly while suggesting that he believed the Russian leader.

"They are political hacks," Mr. Trump said then. "So you look at it, I mean, you have Brennan, you have Clapper, and you have Comey. Comey is proven now to be a liar and he is proven now to be a leaker. So you look at that and you have President Putin very strongly, vehemently says he had nothing to do with that."

Mr. Brennan reacted to Ms. Sanders' announcement by suggesting on Twitter that Mr. Trump should be impeached for what he called a "treasonous" performance as president.

Mr. Hayden, in a Twitter post, said the removal of his security clearance would not affect what he said publicly. He also said he does not go to the White House for classified briefings.

## **President Trump Considers Revoking Security Clearances For Former U.S. Officials**

By David Jackson  
[USA Today](#), July 23, 2018

President Donald Trump is exploring "mechanisms" to revoke security clearances for former U.S. officials who have criticized him for his handling of the Russia investigation and his relationship with Russian President Vladimir Putin, White House press secretary Sarah Sanders said Monday.

Sanders said the administration is reviewing clearances for former CIA director John Brennan, former FBI director James Comey, former national intelligence director James Clapper, former CIA director Michael Hayden, former national security adviser Susan Rice and former deputy FBI director Andrew McCabe.

"They politicize and in some cases actually monetize their public service and their security clearances in making baseless accusations of improper contact with Russia," Sanders said.

Brennan, who worked in senior roles in President George W. Bush's administration and was a CIA director under President Barack Obama, offered particularly incendiary criticism of Trump's handling of his meeting in Helsinki with Putin.

After a news conference in Helsinki in which Trump appeared to favor Putin's denials over the findings of the intelligence community, Brennan wrote on Twitter that the president's performance was "nothing short of treasonous."

Security clearances can allow government officials to work with companies on classified defense programs and advise private contractors. They also can be something of a professional courtesy, allowing former national security officials to talk to their successors.

Having a security clearance does not entitle anyone to access classified information.

Clapper, the former director of national intelligence, told CNN his clearance "has nothing to do with how I or any of us feel about the president. And I don't get the briefings. I don't have access to classified information."

Susan Hennessy, executive editor of the blog Lawfare, tweeted that "former high-ranking national security officials typically stay in access in order to support their successors and provide insight and continuity when necessary."

In announcing the review of security clearances, Sanders said that "making baseless accusations of improper contact with Russia or being influenced by Russia against the president is extremely inappropriate."

Melissa Schwartz, a spokeswoman for McCabe, said in a statement that his clearance "was deactivated when he was terminated, according to what we were told was FBI policy. You would think the White House would check with the FBI before trying to throw shiny objects to the press corps."

Hayden tweeted: "I don't go back for classified briefings. Won't have any effect on what I say or write."

Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., said he has urged Trump to revoke clearances because "public officials should not use their security clearances to leverage speaking fees or network talking-head fees."

Republican consultant Liz Mair said, "Using executive authority to punish critics sets a bad precedent and looks abusive and overpunitive," and the Trump administration

"already has a bad rap where that's concerned. Why worsen it?"

Asked whether the administration would look into any security clearances for Obama himself or Vice President Joe Biden, Sanders said: "I'm not aware of any plans for that at this point."

It's not known how Trump might revoke the clearances, if he wants to move forward.

Steven Aftergood, a government secrecy specialist with the Federation of American Scientists, said Trump probably has the legal authority to do it, given his status as commander-in-chief. As a technical matter, he might have to order the agencies that granted the clearances to terminate them.

"He might encounter resistance at that point," Aftergood said, if the requests are seen as some kind of "vendetta."

## **Trump Considering Yanking The Security Clearances Of Former Officials Who've Criticized Him**

By Chris Megerian

[Los Angeles Times](#), July 23, 2018

President Trump is considering revoking the security clearances of at least half a dozen well-known former national security officials, his spokeswoman said on Monday, in an extraordinary reflection of frustration with his increasingly vocal critics from past administrations.

Among the president's targets, Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said, are former C.I.A. director John Brennan, former director of national intelligence James Clapper and former national security advisor Susan Rice, all of who served under President Obama.

She also named Michael Hayden, who was head of the National Security Agency and then C.I.A. director under President George W. Bush; James B. Comey, the former FBI director under Obama and Trump and a deputy attorney general in the Bush administration; and former Deputy FBI Director Andrew McCabe, a career federal official whom Trump fired.

"They've politicized and in some cases monetized their public service and security clearances, making baseless accusations of improper contact with Russia," Sanders told reporters during an afternoon White House briefing.

Sanders did not rule out some kind of similar action against Obama and his vice president, Joe Biden. "I'm not aware of any plans for that at this point," she said.

If Trump decides to revoke the clearances, the former officials, many of whom spent decades in government or military service, or both, would no longer be permitted to review classified material.



Soon after Sanders' remarks, Clapper responded in a CNN interview, calling the potential revocation "a very, very petty thing to do."

"If he chooses to do it for political reasons, well that's — I think that's a terrible precedent, and I think that's a very sad commentary. And it's an abuse of the system," Clapper said on CNN.

Melissa Schwartz, a spokeswoman for McCabe, said Sanders was mistaken about his status — she said McCabe's clearance was already deactivated when he was fired earlier this year.

"You would think the White House would check with the FBI before trying to throw shiny objects at the press corps," she tweeted.

Hayden said that the threat wouldn't have an impact on him.

"I don't go back for classified briefings," he tweeted. "Won't have any effect on what I say or write."

All of the officials named by Sanders have been critical of Trump, although Brennan has been particularly outspoken.

Last week, Brennan tweeted that Trump's news conference in Helsinki, Finland, with Russian President Vladimir Putin was "nothing short of treasonous" because he refused to confront Putin over Moscow's 2016 election interference and accepted the Russian's denials over the unanimous findings of U.S. intelligence agencies.

"Not only were Trump's comments imbecilic, he is wholly in the pocket of Putin," Brennan added.

Brennan did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

## Trump Weighs Revoking Security Clearances For Several Ex-Obama Officials

By Justin Sink And Shannon Pettypiece

[Bloomberg News](#), July 23, 2018

President Donald Trump is considering revoking the security clearances of former FBI Director James Comey, ex-CIA Director John Brennan and other Obama-era national security officials who have criticized him.

Trump has been seething over criticism of his Helsinki summit last week with Russian leader Vladimir Putin and public doubts Trump expressed about U.S. intelligence findings that Russia interfered with the 2016 presidential election. Brennan called Trump's performance "treasonous."

Tracking Trump: Follow the Administration's Every Move

The president is "exploring the mechanism" to remove their access to classified information because of criticism the officials have leveled against his conduct of relations with Russia, White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders told reporters Monday.

"They've politicized and in some cases monetized their public service and security clearances," Sanders said. "Making baseless accusations of improper contact with Russia or being influenced by Russia against the president is extremely inappropriate."

Sanders said Trump also was considering stripping security clearances from James Clapper, the former director of national intelligence; Michael Hayden, former director of the National Security Agency; and Susan Rice, President Barack Obama's national security adviser.

Senate Majority Whip John Cornyn, the second-ranking Republican leader in the Senate, said he understood Trump's aggravation with the former officials' criticism but expressed skepticism about the move.

"I don't know whether they've been abusing their security clearance at all," Cornyn told reporters. "That's a very serious allegation, and I want to see what the results are."

"This is just a very, very petty thing to do," Clapper said on CNN. "The security clearance has nothing to do with how I or any of us feel about the president. I don't get briefings, I don't have access to any classified information, it's frankly more of a courtesy."

Hayden said the sanction won't silence his criticism of Trump.

"I don't go back for classified briefings," Hayden said in a tweet. "Won't have any effect on what I say or write."

Read More: Rand Paul Seeks Bar on Trump-Critic Brennan's Classified Access

The guidelines covering security clearances don't permit revocation for political differences, and the former officials could challenge the step through an administrative process, said Mark Zaid, a Washington-based national security lawyer with expertise in security clearances.

"It is completely inappropriate for anyone to lose their security clearance based on political differences," Zaid said. "To my knowledge this has never been an issue before because no president in their right mind would ever ethically consider taking such an action."

Still, Trump could simply order agencies to stop providing classified information to the former officials, Zaid said.

Brennan was CIA director under Obama and helped produce the intelligence reports that first found Russia meddled in the election. After Trump's meeting last week with Russian President Vladimir Putin, Brennan called Trump's performance "treasonous" and said he "is wholly in the pocket of Putin and that his performance exceeded the threshold for impeachment for 'high crimes and misdemeanors.'"

Brennan was one of several intelligence officials who showed Trump classified information just before he took office indicating Putin had personally authorized hacking to try and sway the 2016 U.S. election in Trump's favor, according to the New York Times.



The idea of moving to revoke Brennan's security clearance gained traction recently in conservative media circles. Fox News host Tucker Carlson on July 19 called Brennan an extremist with "a documented history of dishonesty" and said he shouldn't have a clearance.

Republican Senator Rand Paul of Kentucky said he urged Trump to revoke Brennan's security clearance at a meeting with the president Monday. Trump is trying to court Paul to vote to confirm Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh despite reservations the senator has expressed about Kavanaugh's commitment to privacy rights.

## Trump Considering Revoking 6 Ex-Obama Officials' Clearance

By Jill Colvin

[Associated Press](#), July 23, 2018

President Donald Trump is considering revoking the security clearances of six former Obama-era officials who have been critical of his administration, a move that opponents say would be an unprecedented politicization of the clearance process.

White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders said Monday that the president is "exploring the mechanisms" to strip clearance from former CIA Director John Brennan as well as five other former top national security officials: former FBI Director Jim Comey, James Clapper, Michael Hayden, Susan Rice and Andrew McCabe.

The comments came hours after Republican Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky tweeted that he was planning to talk to Trump about revoking Brennan's clearance. Brennan had offered particularly scathing criticism of the president's performance at a summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin last week, tweeting that Trump was "wholly in the pocket of Putin."

Former CIA directors and other top national security officials are typically allowed to keep their clearances, at least for a period, so they can be in a position to advise their successors. At least one of the former officials, ex-FBI Deputy Director McCabe, does not currently have security clearance, his spokeswoman said.

Sanders accused the officials of having "politicized and in some cases monetized their public service and security clearances" by "making baseless accusations of improper contact with Russia or being influenced by Russia."

"The fact that people with security clearances are making these baseless charges provides inappropriate legitimacy to accusations with zero evidence," she said.

Paul tweeted later that he had sat down with Trump to talk about Brennan.

"Just got out of WH meeting with @realDonaldTrump," he tweeted later in an update. "I restated to him what I have

said in public: John Brennan and others partisans should have their security clearances revoked."

He added: "Public officials should not use their security clearances to leverage speaking fees or network talking head fees."

Brennan had called Trump's press conference with Putin "nothing short of treasonous." While standing next to Putin, Trump had openly questioned his own intelligence agencies' conclusions that Moscow was to blame for meddling in the 2016 U.S. election to help Trump and seemed to accept Putin's insistence that Russia's hands were clean.

Hayden tweeted Monday that a revocation of his security clearance wouldn't "have any effect on what I say or write."

And Melissa Schwartz, a spokeswoman for McCabe, tweeted that his security clearance was deactivated when he was terminated in March 2018, "according to what we were told was FBI policy."

"You would think the White House would check with the FBI before trying to throw shiny objects to the press corps...", she wrote.

Experts appeared split on whether the president has the authority to terminate a security clearance unilaterally.

"It's a disputed question. There is a school of thought which holds that the president has complete and exclusive authority over security clearances," said Steven Aftergood at the Federation of American Scientists' Project on Government Secrecy. "Others argue that that's not so and that the president is limited by congressional power and legislative requirements."

But they agreed that a president asking to revoke the clearance of a political critic would be unprecedented.

John V. Berry, an attorney who represents federal intelligence agency employees, said such a move would "be terrible for America" and totally defeat the process of defending national security."

"It would be horrendous. I just can't imagine that you want to go down that road," he said, adding: "If we start interjecting politics into this, our country's going to be significantly weakened."

"Legalities aside, it seems like a terrible mistake to use the security clearance system as an instrument of political vendettas," added Aftergood. "The very idea is repugnant."

Rep. Eliot Engel of New York, the top Democrat on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, called the idea "ridiculous."

"I mean, what are they afraid of? This is a free country, we have freedom of speech, we have people giving their opinions, and this is just beyond the pale," he said.

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## Trump Wants To Strip Security Clearances From Obama Intel Officials

By Marisa Schultz

[New York Post](#), July 23, 2018

President Trump wants to strip former Obama intelligence officials of their security clearances for making “baseless” accusations against him on Russia, White House press secretary Sarah Sanders said Monday.

Trump is seeking to take away access to sensitive material for former CIA Director John Brennan, former FBI Director James Comey, former national security adviser Susan Rice, former Deputy FBI Director Andrew McCabe, former NSA Director Michael Hayden and former Director of National Intelligence James Clapper, Sanders told reporters.

All have been tough on Trump in TV appearances.

“The president is exploring these mechanisms to remove security clearances because they’ve politicized and in some cases monetized their public service and their security clearances and making baseless accusations of improper contact with Russia or being influenced by Russia against the president is extremely inappropriate,” Sanders said.

Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) said Monday Trump should revoke Brennan’s clearance, but Sanders said Trump wants to go further.

“Not only is the president looking to take away Brennan’s security clearance, he’s also looking into the clearances of Comey, Clapper, Hayden, Rice and McCabe,” Sanders said at the White House briefing. “The president is exploring the mechanisms to remove security clearances because they politicize and in some cases monetize their public service and security clearances, making baseless accusations of improper contact with Russia.”

Asked by reporters if this was a violation of the officials’ First Amendment rights, Sanders disagreed.

The president doesn’t like that they are “politicizing” the agencies.

## Rand Paul Seeks Bar On Trump-Critic Brennan’s Classified Access

By Terrence Dopp

[Bloomberg News](#), July 23, 2018

Senator Rand Paul said he’s meeting with President Donald Trump Monday and plans to ask him to block access to sensitive information by a former top U.S. intelligence official who’s been fiercely critical of the White House.

The former official, John Brennan, was CIA director under President Barack Obama and helped produce the intelligence reports that first found Russia meddled in the election. Following Trump’s meeting last week with Russian President Vladimir Putin, Brennan called Trump’s performance “treasonous” and said he “is wholly in the pocket

of Putin and that his performance exceeded the threshold for impeachment for ‘high crimes and misdemeanors.’”

Brennan was one of several intelligence officials who showed Trump classified information indicating Putin had personally authorized hacking to try and sway the 2016 U.S. election in Trump’s favor, according to the New York Times.

“Today I will meet with the President and I will ask him to revoke John Brennan’s security clearance!” Paul said in a posting on Twitter Monday.

The idea of moving to revoke Brennan’s security clearance has been gaining traction in conservative media circles. Fox News host Tucker Carlson on July 19 called Brennan an out-of-the-closet extremist” with “a documented history of dishonesty” and said he shouldn’t have a clearance.

Paul, the maverick Kentucky Republican, poses a potential problem for Trump’s Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh because he’s signaled doubts about his commitment to protecting privacy rights. But his request regarding Brennan could fall upon sympathetic ears after he offered a rare endorsement of Trump’s performance during a post-summit press conference with Russian leader Vladimir Putin last week.

Trump tweeted a public thanks to Paul July 17, saying to him “you really get it!” after Paul defended Trump’s disparaging comments about Special Counsel Robert Mueller’s election-meddling probe, telling CBS, “The President has gone through a year and a half of totally partisan investigations – what’s he supposed to think?”

## Donald Trump Weighs Ending Security Clearances For Six Ex-Officials Who Have Criticized Him

**White House says Trump could revoke clearances of ex-national security officials who have”politicized’ or ‘monetized’ them**

By Vivian Salama

[Wall Street Journal](#), July 23, 2018

Full-text stories from the Wall Street Journal are available to Journal subscribers by clicking the link.

## Trump May Revoke Clearances Of Ex-officials Who Have Slammed Him

By Rebecca Morin

[Politico](#), July 23, 2018

President Donald Trump is considering revoking security clearances from ex-officials, including former CIA Director John Brennan, former FBI Director James Comey and former Director of National Intelligence James Clapper, White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said Monday.

Sanders said Trump believed that the former officials “politicized” their positions by accusing Trump of

inappropriate contact with Russia, and she said in that some cases they “monetized their clearances,” without clarifying what she meant.

“The fact that people with security clearances are making baseless charges provides inappropriate legitimacy to accusations with zero evidence,” Sanders said. She also said Trump was eyeing clearances held by former NSA Director Michael Hayden, former national security adviser Susan Rice and former FBI Deputy Director Andrew McCabe, whose security clearance was deactivated after he was fired.

The move comes after Sen. Rand Paul tweeted on Monday about speaking with Trump about removing Brennan’s security clearance. Fox News host Tucker Carlson also reported last week that the former CIA director still had his clearance.

Brennan, Comey and Clapper have been vocal critics of Trump, often making headlines over their displeasure with the president’s performance.

Last week, Brennan lambasted Trump’s meeting with President Vladimir Putin of Russia, calling it “nothing short of treasonous.”

“Making baseless accusations of improper contact with Russia or being influenced by Russia against the president is extremely inappropriate,” Sanders said during Monday’s press briefing. “And the fact that people with security clearances are making these baseless charges provides inappropriate legitimacy to accusations with zero evidence.”

Several minutes after Huckabee announced that the White House was seeking to revoke his clearance, Clapper on Monday called it “a petty way of retribution: for speaking out against Trump and said that “it’s an abuse of the system.”

“The security clearance has nothing to do with how I or any of us feel about the president,” Clapper said in an interview with CNN, adding that he does not get security briefings and does not have access to classified information.

He also said that it’s “more of a courtesy” for former senior intelligence officials to receive a security clearance and that he hasn’t had “an occasion to use it.” There is also a formal notification when clearance is being suspended, Clapper said.

“I guess legally the president has that prerogative,” Clapper said. “He can suspend or revoke clearances as he sees fit, and if he chooses to do it for political reasons, well, I think that’s a terrible precedent and a very sad commentary. And it’s an abuse of the system.”

Sanders said that the White House has not considered additional actions against those who are having their clearances revoked.

When asked whether the president was punishing those ex-officials for speaking out, Sanders said: “The president doesn’t like that people are politicizing agencies and departments that are specifically meant to not be political and not meant to be monetized off of security clearances.”

“Accusing the president of the United States of treasonous activity when you have the highest level of security clearance, when you’re the person that holds the nation’s deepest, most sacred secrets at your hands, and you go out and make false accusations against the president of the United States, he thinks that is something to be very concerned with,” Sanders added.

Prior to Sanders’ announcement Monday, Judiciary Committee Chairman Bob Goodlatte (R-Va.) had called on Brennan to testify on Capitol Hill about his role in the investigation of Russian meddling during the 2016 election.

Goodlatte said Sunday it’s “extremely disturbing” to see ex-officials such as Brennan and Comey “express the kind of extreme bias that they’ve shown now.”

Some Republican lawmakers, however, are unsure whether there has been any abuse of security clearance.

“Some former intelligence officials have obviously donned the uniform of the opposition team ... and I can understand his aggravation. But I will wait to see what he does,” said Senate Majority Whip John Cornyn of Texas, an Intelligence Committee member. “I don’t know whether they’ve been abusing their security clearance at all. That’s a very serious allegation.”

## **Trump Mulls Revoking Security Clearances Of Comey, Brennan, Clapper**

By Gabby Morrongiello

[Washington Examiner](#), July 23, 2018

President Trump is considering revoking the security clearances of several former intelligence and national security officials who have been critical of his administration, the White House said Monday.

“Not only is the president looking to take away [Former CIA Director John] Brennan’s security clearance, he’s also looking into the clearances of Comey, Clapper, Hayden, Rice and McCabe,” press secretary Sarah Sanders told reporters.

Sanders was referring to five officials who served under the Obama administration: former FBI Director James Comey, former Director of National Intelligence James Clapper, former National Security Agency Director Michael Hayden, former national security adviser Susan Rice, and former Deputy FBI Director Andrew McCabe.

The White House accused those individuals of having “politicized and monetized” their access to U.S. intelligence and national security secrets.

“As of right now, we are exploring the mechanism on those specific names,” Sanders said.

Sanders rejected the idea that Trump was considering the move as a way to punish his political enemies, and said the issue was how people with a security clearance were abusing that privilege.

"The president is exploring these mechanisms to remove security clearances because they politicized and in some cases actually monetized their public service and their security clearances, and making baseless accusations of improper contact with Russia or being influenced by Russia against the president is extremely inappropriate," Sanders said.

"The president contends that the fact that people with security clearances are making these baseless charges provides inappropriate legitimacy to accusations with zero evidence," she added.

When pressed again on whether the move was aimed at punishing his enemies, Sanders shot back, "I think you are creating your own story there."

"The president doesn't like the fact that people are politicizing agencies and departments that are specifically meant to not be political and not meant to be monetized off of security clearances," she said.

### **Dumb Idea Of The Week**

**Revoking clearances is petty. Here's a better idea.**

By The Editorial Board

[Wall Street Journal](#), July 23, 2018

Full-text stories from the Wall Street Journal are available to Journal subscribers by clicking the link.

### **BREAKING: President Trump Looking Into Stripping Security Clearances From James Comey, Other Obama Administration Officials**

By Katie Pavlich

[Townhall](#), July 23, 2018

Speaking from the White House briefing room Monday afternoon, Press Secretary Sarah Sanders revealed President Trump may revoke security clearances belonging to a number of Obama administration officials.

"Not only is the President looking to take away Brennan's security clearance, he's also looking into the clearances of Comey, Clapper, Hayden, Rice and McCabe. The President is exploring the mechanisms to remove security clearance because they've politicized and in some case monetized their public service and security clearances making baseless accusations of improper contact with Russia or being influenced by Russia against the President is extremely inappropriate. The fact that people with security clearances are making these baseless charges provides inappropriate legitimacy to accusations with no legitimacy."

Sanders is referring to former FBI Director James Comey, former DNI Director James Clapper, former NSA and CIA Director Michael Hayden, former White House National Security Advisor Susan Rice and former Acting FBI Director Andrew McCabe. Comey and McCabe are the only two who

also worked under the Trump administration before being fired.

The news comes after Republican Senator Rand Paul said Monday morning he was going to ask President Trump to review the clearance of former CIA Director John Brennan during a meeting at the White House.

### **Rand Paul Says He'll Ask Trump To Revoke Former CIA Director John Brennan's Security Clearance**

By Shane Harris

[Washington Post](#), July 23, 2018

Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) said that he plans to meet with President Trump on Monday and ask him to revoke the security clearance of former CIA director John Brennan, who has been a harsh critic of Trump on Russia and other issues.

Brennan, who served under President Barack Obama, last week used the word "treasonous" to describe Trump's performance at his summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Helsinki, saying it showed he was "wholly in the pocket of Putin."

In a pair of tweets Monday, Paul suggested that Brennan was trying to profit off his security clearance by "divulging secrets to the mainstream media" that undermine Trump, and he said his security clearance should be revoked.

Former CIA directors typically hold on to their clearance for several years after leaving office in part so that they can share insights with current directors.

A spokesman for Brennan declined a request for comment.

Paul, who once had a frosty relationship with Trump, has emerged as one of his fiercest defenders on Russia, calling those who questioned Trump's efforts to build a relationship with Putin "unhinged" and "crazy."

Following last week's summit with Putin, Trump was widely criticized by Democrats and Republicans alike for appearing too cozy with the Russian leader and failing to more aggressively confront him on Russian interference in the 2016 election.

Brennan, who was involved in the assessments of Russian interference, now serves as a senior national security and intelligence analyst for NBC News and MSNBC and often makes critical comments about Trump.

Is John Brennan monetizing his security clearance? Is John Brennan making millions of dollars divulging secrets to the mainstream media with his attacks on @realDonaldTrump ?— Senator Rand Paul (@RandPaul) July 23, 2018

Today I will meet with the President and I will ask him to revoke John Brennan's security clearance!— Senator Rand Paul (@RandPaul) July 23, 2018



## **Sanders: Mueller Probe A 'hoax And A Waste Of Time'**

By Emily Birnbaum

[The Hill](#), July 23, 2018

White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders on Monday called special counsel Robert Mueller's ongoing investigation into possible ties between President Trump's campaign and Russia "a hoax and a waste of time."

"We'd all be a lot better off if ... Congress and the special counsel could come to the same conclusion that the rest of America has — that this is a hoax and a waste of time," Sanders said on "Fox & Friends."

Mueller's probe has led to indictments or guilty pleas for 32 people and three Russian companies.

Mueller has charged four former Trump campaign aides — Michael Flynn, Paul Manafort, Richard Gates and George Papadopoulos — though none of the charges are related to misconduct by the president's campaign.

Trump has continued to decry Mueller's investigation as a "hoax" and a "witch hunt," though Mueller last week indicted 12 Russian intelligence officials for conspiring to influence the 2016 election by hacking Democratic organizations and individuals.

Members of the GOP have split with Trump regarding Mueller's investigation. Rep. Trey Gowdy (R-S.C.) last week said he doesn't believe Mueller's investigation is a "witch hunt."

Documents released on Saturday revealed that the FBI was probing former Trump aide Carter Page for possible links to Russia and used the so-called Steele dossier in part to obtain surveillance warrants on Page.

The agency concluded that Russia was trying to recruit Page to sow discord on U.S. soil.

Trump on Monday blasted the "Fake Dirty Dossier," an opposition research compilation partially funded by former Democratic presidential hopeful Hillary Clinton's campaign, which alleges ties between Trump and the Kremlin. Trump and GOP lawmakers have repeatedly decried the dossier as false, and have extended the criticism to the documents about Page.

Officials, however, told the court they found the information to be "credible." The warrant application was based on additional information and not just the dossier.

## **The FBI's FISA Faults**

**The documents show the bureau relied heavily on the Steele dossier.**

By The Editorial Board

[Wall Street Journal](#), July 23, 2018

Full-text stories from the Wall Street Journal are available to Journal subscribers by clicking the link.

## **DOJ Used False Info To Secure Wiretaps On Trump Associate**

By Mollie Hemingway

[The Federalist](#), July 23, 2018

Newly released documents confirm House and Senate investigators' claims that the Department of Justice and FBI used materially false and misleading information to secure wiretaps on Carter Page, a former volunteer foreign policy advisor to President Trump. The highly redacted documents released in response to Freedom of Information Act requests show how the FBI was able to convince the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court to surveil the Naval Academy graduate and energy consultant for a year of his life.

The wiretap was applied for and granted in October 2016, shortly before the end of the presidential campaign. Approved applications last for 90 days. The Department of Justice requested and received three renewals, for a total of one year of surveillance. Despite claiming to the court in 2016 that "the FBI believes that Page has been collaborating and conspiring with the Russian Government," the government has yet to charge Page with breaking any of the serious laws it alleges he knowingly transgressed.

Here is what the highly redacted FISA applications show us thus far. The Dossier Provided an Essential Part Of Application

As members of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and Senate Judiciary Committee previously reported, a salacious and unverified dossier was essential to the government's case for spying on Page. The information from the dossier is presented to the court as if it's believable.

For instance, the application states, "the FBI has learned that Page met with at least two Russian officials during this trip." The only way it learned that was through the dossier. Steele's claim that Page had a "secret meeting with Igor Sechin, who is the President of Rosneft [a Russian energy company] and a close associate to Russian President Putin" to lift sanctions is included.

Another secret meeting with Igor Nikolayevich Divyekin to discuss releasing dirt on "Candidate #2" to "Candidate #1's campaign" is mentioned. Also, while Page had left the campaign by the time the wiretap was sought, it is clear that the FBI believed its wiretap would find information on the Trump campaign, stating that the "Russian government's efforts are being coordinated with Page and perhaps other individuals associated" with the Trump campaign. The Dossier Was Not Verified

As House and Senate members reported, there is no evidence the dossier was verified before being used in the applications. For instance, there is no evidence as of July 2018 that either of the two meetings above that Steele claimed happened ever occurred. There was obviously no



verification of these claims in 2016, or even an indication that the FBI desired verification. Page has repeatedly denied that he met with these individuals.

As senators Charles Grassley (R-Iowa) and Lindsay Graham (R-S.C.) wrote earlier this year, "The application appears to contain no additional information corroborating the dossier allegations against Mr. Page, although it does cite to a news article that appears to be sourced to Mr. Steele's dossier as well."

As the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence reported, "The Carter Page FISA application also cited extensively a September 23, 2016, Yahoo News article by Michael Isikoff, which focuses on Page's July 2016 trip to Moscow. This article does not corroborate the Steele dossier because it is derived from information leaked by Steele himself to Yahoo News."

These reports are accurate — the Yahoo News story sourced to Steele is cited extensively and repeatedly. Even worse, the FBI repeatedly claimed Steele is not the source of the article. Isikoff has confirmed Steele was of course his source. Cites Steele's Credibility, Despite Overwhelming Evidence To Doubt It

For the first application, the FBI reported that the previous reporting of Steele (identified as Source #1) had been corroborated and used in criminal proceedings and that Steele was deemed "reliable" by the FBI. They said they were unaware of any derogatory information on him. They said he wasn't told about the motivation of the funder of the research.

There are a few problems with this. One is that the application itself admits that Steele was working with sub-sources. We now know he never visited Russia for his research but had other people gathering information from Russians, including from Russian government officials. Since the information was actually provided by these second- and third-hand sources, it is their reliability the FBI should swear to, not Steele's. Just because he once had reliable information or had a source with reliable information doesn't mean that all or even most of the sources he compensated for information will be even remotely reliable.

The other problem is that at some point in the process, the FBI realized their source was unreliable in multiple ways, yet they continued to swear to the court otherwise. Soon after the first application, the FBI had to terminate the relationship with Steele because he broke a promise to not share information with the press.

What's more, he broke that promise out of fear that Clinton might lose the election, suggesting extreme motivation. He claimed he had not shared information with the press before the end of October 2016, but that was not true. He later testified to a British court that he'd briefed numerous media outlets throughout the waning months of the U.S. election. The Applications Made Materially False Claims

Again, the dossier was essential to the wiretap applications, and its credibility was sourced not to the veracity of its claims, but to its author. So Steele's lies were a problem. How did the FBI and DOJ handle this? Not well.

The FISA applications cited Isikoff's September 23 Yahoo News article, which you would have to be an idiot to not realize was sourced to Steele. Take this paragraph, for example:

But U.S. officials have since received intelligence reports that during that same three-day trip, Page met with Igor Sechin, a longtime Putin associate and former Russian deputy prime minister who is now the executive chairman of Rosneft, Russian's leading oil company, a well-placed Western intelligence source tells Yahoo News.

A well-placed Western intelligence source? You don't say! What an obvious way to describe the non-American researcher who is the sole source of the claim! But note how the FBI reported the inclusion of this Yahoo News article in the dossier:

Footnote 18, application: "Source #1 told the FBI that he/she only provided this information to the business associate and the FBI. REDACTED The FBI does not believe that Source #1 directly provided this information to the press."

Footnote 19, first renewal: "Source #1 told the FBI that he/she only provided this information to the business associate and the FBI. REDACTED The FBI does not believe that Source #1 directly provided this information to the identified news organization that published the September 23rd News Article."

Footnote 20, second renewal: "Source #1 told the FBI that he/she only provided this information to the business associate and the FBI. REDACTED The FBI does not believe that Source #1 directly provided this information to the identified news organization that published the September 23rd News Article."

Footnote 22, third renewal: "Source #1 told the FBI that he/she only provided this information to the business associate and the FBI. REDACTED The FBI does not believe that Source #1 directly provided this information to the identified news organization that published the September 23rd News Article."

As Sens. Graham and Grassley wrote earlier this year:

In Steele's sworn court filings in litigation in London, he admitted that he 'gave off the record briefings to a small number of journalists about the pre-election memoranda [i.e., the dossier] in late summer/autumn 2016.' In another sworn filing in that case, Mr. Steele further stated that journalists from 'the New York Times, the Washington Post, Yahoo News, the New Yorker, and CNN' were 'briefed at the end of September 2016 by [Steele] and Fusion at Fusion's instruction.' The filing further states that Mr. Steele 'subsequently participated in further meetings at Fusion's instruction with Fusion and the New York Times, the

Washington Post, and Yahoo News, which took place mid-October 2016.'...

The first of these filings was publicly reported in the U.S. media in April of 2017, yet the FBI did not subsequently disclose to the FISC this evidence suggesting that Mr. Steele had lied to the FBI. Instead the application still relied primarily on his credibility prior to the October media incident.

Anyone should have doubted the credibility of a man who claimed he wasn't Isikoff's source. But to do so after his sworn court filings admitting to any number of press briefings during the campaign is downright scandalous. The True Funding Of Dossier Was Oddly Obscured

House Intelligence Committee members complained that the wiretap applications failed to disclose that the dossier was funded by the Clinton campaign and the Democratic National Committee. Sens. Grassley and Graham said the FBI revealed the political origins of the dossier to only a "vaguely limited extent."

That's true. Donald Trump shows up in the application as Candidate #1 and Hillary Clinton shows up as Candidate #2. The Republican Party is identified as Political Party #1. So it would have been easy to note that the dossier was secretly bought and paid for by Candidate #2 and Political Party #2. Instead, a veritable word salad is deployed to hide that significant fact.

The court is told Source #1 was told "that a U.S.-based law firm had hired the identified U.S. person to conduct research regarding Candidate #1's ties to Russia" and that Source #1 wasn't told about the motivation behind the research. The FBI surmises that Source #1's boss — Fusion GPS' Glenn Simpson — wanted information to discredit Candidate #1's campaign.

Critics of the House and Senate investigators say it's obvious that referred to Hillary Clinton and the Democrats. But remember that Simpson and Fusion GPS had also been hired by the Washington Free Beacon to gather information to discredit Candidate #1's campaign. The Free Beacon contracted with Fusion GPS through January 2017.

And the Clinton secret funding is relevant. In the second renewal, the application says:

Page sent a letter to the U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, Voting Section, urging the review of what Page claimed was 'severe election fraud in the form of disinformation, suppression of dissent, hate crimes and other extensive abuses led by members of [Candidate #2's] campaign and their political allies last year.' In his letter, Page claims that he has not directly supported a political campaign since September 2016, but continues to be subjected to personal attacks by former members of Candidate #2's campaign based on fictitious information. Page wrote that his academic lecture and related meetings with scholars and business people in Moscow had no connection to the U.S. election. Page attributes the assertions in the September

23rd News Article that Page met with two senior Russian officials (i.e., Sechin and Diveykin) while he was in Moscow in July 2016 to give the commencement address at the New Economic School, which Page claims is 'false evidence,' to Candidate #2's campaign. Page further claims that the information relied on by Candidate #2's campaign, certain members of the U.S. Congress, and the media are lies that were completely fabricated by Candidate #2's paid consultants and private investigators. [emphasis added]

You don't say! While the redacted application renewal does not indicate why this letter from Page is included, it is clear that the government continues to believe "Candidate #2's paid consultants and private investigators" over the word of the surveilled American citizen. From the date of his letter, two more wiretap applications are pursued and granted. What In The World

It remains possible that Page is the most talented spy who ever walked the earth and fully deserved to be surveilled by the federal government. It is also possible that the surveillance was ordered merely because the country has an intelligence apparatus that was unable to recognize their main source was a liar whose sub-sources were at best playing him and whose recklessness left his little partisan research project open to manipulation by foreign adversaries.

Barring those options, our intelligence apparatus misled a FISA court with materially false claims.

## **Donald Trump Says He 'Gave Up Nothing' In Putin Summit But Offers No Specifics On Talks**

By David Jackson

[USA Today](#), July 23, 2018

A week after his meeting with Russian leader Vladimir Putin stirred bipartisan criticism at home, President Donald Trump on Monday defended his handling of the summit but he offered no details on what was said in the private, two-hour meeting between the two leaders in Helsinki.

"When you hear the Fake News talking negatively about my meeting with President Putin, and all that I gave up, remember, I gave up NOTHING," Trump said wrote on Twitter. "We merely talked about future benefits for both countries. Also, we got along very well, which is a good thing, except for the Corrupt Media!"

Trump has been criticized by both Republican and Democratic lawmakers for his joint news conference with Putin in Helsinki in which he declined to challenge the Russian president on issues such as Moscow's interference in the 2016 U.S. presidential election and the seizure of Crimea from Ukraine.

At the news conference following the private meeting, Trump also appeared to accept Putin's denials of trying to

undermine the U.S. election, even though U.S. intelligence agencies have concluded that Russia did intervene.

Trump has defended his meeting with Putin by saying he wants to work with Russia on issues like counter-terrorism, North Korea, Syria, and Ukraine, and he has invited Putin to visit Washington sometime in the fall, another source of anxiety for lawmakers.

Rep. Trey Gowdy, R-S.C., chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform, said the evidence proves that Russia “is not our friend and they tried to attack us in 2016,” and Trump needs to be more forthright about it.

“The disconnect cannot continue,” Gowdy said on Fox News Sunday. “The evidence is overwhelming and the president needs to say that and act like it.”

U.S. special counsel Robert Mueller is probing whether Trump or anyone from his campaign coordinated with Russia in its attempt to tilt the 2016 election toward the Republican. Trump has denied any collusion and has repeatedly called the Mueller probe a “hoax” and a “witch hunt.”

While defending the Putin meeting, Trump again called for ending the Mueller probe. Over the weekend, Trump zeroed in on release of a foreign intelligence search warrant regarding campaign aide Carter Page, claiming it is evidence that the Barack Obama administration “spied” on his campaign using information from a politically motivated “dossier” of information about Trump and the Russians.

That “Fake Dirty Dossier” is “responsible for starting the totally conflicted and discredited Mueller Witch Hunt!” Trump said in one tweet on Monday.

Legal analysts noted that intelligence agents had good reason to suspect Page had a relationship with Russia, and that the FBI found much of the dossier to be credible; they noted that four judges, all appointed by Republicans, signed off on the Page warrant and that Mueller recently obtained indictments on a dozen Russian intelligence officials on charges of election sabotage.

Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., top Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee, said on ABC’s This Week that “there’s no ignoring the fact that for whatever reason, this president acts like he’s compromised.”

There’s no other way “to explain why he would side with this Kremlin former KGB officer rather than his own intelligence agencies,” Schiff said.

## Trump Returns To ‘Witch Hunt’ Tweets Against Mueller Probe

By Zeke Miller

[Associated Press](#), July 23, 2018

WASHINGTON (AP) — Capping a week of drama, back-tracking and blistering statements from allies about his attitude toward Russian election interference, President Donald Trump on Monday returned to familiar rhetoric,

referring to the special counsel’s Russia probe as a “hoax” and “Witch Hunt.”

Trump spent last week trying to reassure the country that he accepts that the longtime foe interfered in the 2016 election, despite his public undermining of U.S. intelligence agencies in Helsinki while standing alongside Russian President Vladimir Putin. But Trump cast doubt once again in a Sunday tweet, diminishing at least the significance, if not the existence, of the interference and the U.S. investigation into Russia’s actions.

“So President Obama knew about Russia before the Election,” Trump tweeted. “Why didn’t he do something about it? Why didn’t he tell our campaign? Because it is all a big hoax, that’s why, and he thought Crooked Hillary was going to win!!!”

White House press secretary Sarah Sanders said Monday that Trump was “obviously” referring to allegations of collusion between his presidential campaign and Russian agents.

U.S. intelligence agencies unanimously concurred that Russia interfered in the 2016 campaign. Trump only reluctantly accepted their assessment amid the firestorm of last week’s reaction to his comments at a summit news conference with Putin.

“Obviously the president is talking about the collusion with his campaign,” Sanders said. “He’s been very clear that there wasn’t any. I think he’s said it about 1,000 times.”

On Monday, Trump again mischaracterized documents released by the FBI this weekend related to the agency’s wiretapping of Carter Page, a onetime campaign adviser. Trump is claiming without evidence that the FBI inappropriately used political research by British spy Christopher Steele to mislead the court into granting a wiretap order, then classified the documents to “cover up misconduct.” He was quoting a conservative activist on Fox News.

That’s not what the documents show, though. Released online Saturday under the Freedom of Information Act, the documents note the political ties to Steele’s work but said it still believed some of his report to be “credible.” The FBI said it suspected Page had been “collaborating and conspiring with the Russian government.”

Visible portions of the heavily redacted documents, released Saturday under the Freedom of Information Act, show the FBI telling the court that Page “has been collaborating and conspiring with the Russian government.” The agency also told the court that “the FBI believes Page has been the subject of targeted recruitment by the Russian government.”

Page denies being a foreign agent.

Special Counsel Robert Mueller is investigating potential collusion between Russia and Trump’s campaign. Two Trump associates, former national security adviser Mike

Flynn and campaign foreign policy aide George Papadopoulos, pleaded guilty last year to charges brought by Mueller alleging they had lied to the FBI about their Russia contacts.

Trump tweeted Monday: "They should drop the discredited Mueller Witch Hunt now!"

The documents were part of officials' application for a warrant to the secretive foreign intelligence surveillance court, which signed off on surveilling Page.

Trump tweeted Sunday on the documents: "As usual they are ridiculously heavily redacted but confirm with little doubt that the Department of 'Justice' and FBI misled the courts. Witch Hunt Rigged, a Scam!"

The release appears to undercut some of the contentions in a memo prepared by House Intelligence Committee Chairman Rep. Devin Nunes earlier this year. Nunes, R-Calif., and other Republicans had said that anti-Trump research in a dossier prepared by former British intelligence agent Christopher Steele and paid for by Democrats was used inappropriately to obtain the warrant on Page.

While the documents confirm that the FBI relied, in part, on information from Steele to obtain the initial warrant, they also show how the FBI informed the court of his likely motivation.

A page-long footnote in the warrant application lays out the FBI's assessment of Steele's history and the likely interest of his backer, adding that despite the political concern, the bureau believed at least some of his report to be "credible."

Democratic Rep. Adam Schiff of California, a ranking member on the House Intelligence Committee, said the documents detail "just why the FBI was so concerned that Carter Page might be acting as an agent of a foreign power."

"It was a solid application and renewals signed by four different judges appointed by three different Republican presidents," Schiff said on ABC's "This Week."

Republican Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida also broke with Trump, saying he didn't think the FBI did anything wrong in obtaining warrants against Page.

"I have a different view on this issue than the president and the White House," Rubio said Sunday on CBS' "Face the Nation." "They did not spy on the campaign from anything and everything that I have seen. You have an individual here who has openly bragged about his ties to Russia and Russians."

In a 2013 letter, Page had described himself as an "informal adviser" to the Kremlin but now said "it's really spin" to call him an adviser.

Page has not been charged with a crime, but he has been interviewed by the FBI and congressional investigators about his ties to Russia. White House officials have argued that Page, announced by the president in early 2016 as a

foreign policy adviser, played only a minor role in the Trump campaign.

The documents released Saturday include the FBI's October 2016 request to surveil Page and several renewal applications. It marks the first time in the more than 40-year history of the highly secretive court that underlying documents for a warrant have been released.

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## **Trump Calls For End Of Mueller Probe, Saying It's 'discredited' By Carter Page Surveillance**

By John Wagner

[Washington Post](#), July 23, 2018

President Trump on Monday made a fresh call to end the investigation of special counsel Robert S. Mueller III, citing the release over the weekend of a previously classified application to wiretap former Trump campaign adviser Carter Page, who was under suspicion by the FBI of being a Russian agent.

In a series of tweets, Trump falsely claimed that Mueller's investigation was prompted by the surveillance. Trump and other Republicans have accused the FBI of relying too heavily on a dossier compiled by a former British intelligence officer to seek the surveillance order for Page from a federal judge, arguing that Trump was the real target.

In his tweets, Trump complained that the "Fake Dirty Dossier" compiled by Christopher Steele was paid for by Democrats and Hillary Clinton's campaign, saying it "was responsible for starting the totally conflicted and discredited Mueller Witch Hunt!"

"A disgrace to America," Trump wrote. "They should drop the discredited Mueller Witch Hunt now!"

The counterintelligence investigation by the FBI into Russian election interference began months before the Obama administration sought the court surveillance order on Page in October 2016. Mueller was appointed special counsel in May 2017, after Trump fired James B. Comey as FBI director.

In his tweets, Trump also cited comments by Tom Fitton, president of Judicial Watch, during an appearance Monday on Fox News's "Fox & Friends." Trump went on Twitter early Monday to promote Fitton's interview shortly before it began.

During the interview, Fitton characterized the Steele dossier as "a Clinton campaign document" and said it was "a fraud and a hoax designed to target Trump," according to Trump's tweets. Fitton also accused the FBI and Justice Department of misconduct.



Democrats and Republicans have been sparring for months over the significance of the FBI's surveillance of Page, whom the FBI believed was interacting with Russians.

Republicans, who previously released some details about the application, have accused the FBI of relying too much on the Steele dossier, which they painted as politically motivated and uncorroborated.

Democrats counter that the surveillance application relied on more information than what Steele provided. And they note that Steele had been a reliable source of information to the FBI in the past.

In its application to surveil Page, the FBI disclosed that his work was on behalf of a client who was possibly looking for politically damaging information about Trump. Republicans had accused the bureau of failing to notify the court of the dossier's political origins.

Much of the more than 400 pages of applications is redacted, making it impossible to know all the evidence that the FBI presented to a judge in seeking the wiretap order.

So we now find out that it was indeed the unverified and Fake Dirty Dossier, that was paid for by Crooked Hillary Clinton and the DNC, that was knowingly & falsely submitted to FISA and which was responsible for starting the totally conflicted and discredited Mueller Witch Hunt!— Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) July 23, 2018

"It was classified to cover up misconduct by the FBI and the Justice Department in misleading the Court by using this Dossier in a dishonest way to gain a warrant to target the Trump Team. This is a Clinton Campaign document. It was a fraud and a hoax designed to target Trump....— Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) July 23, 2018

....and the DOJ, FBI and Obama Gang need to be held to account. Source #1 was the major source. Avoided talking about it being the Clinton campaign behind it. Misled the Court to provide a pretext to SPY on the Trump Team. Not about Carter Page..was all about getting Trump.....— Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) July 23, 2018

....."Carter Page wasn't a spy, wasn't an agent of the Russians – he would have cooperated with the FBI. It was a fraud and a hoax designed to target Trump." Tom Fitton @JudicialWatch A disgrace to America. They should drop the discredited Mueller Witch Hunt now!— Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) July 23, 2018

Among the Democrats to push back on Trump's Monday morning tweets was Rep. Adam Schiff (D-Calif.), who said the president had the sequence of events wrong.

"Wrong again, Mr. President, no matter how many times you repeat it," Schiff, the top Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee, wrote on Twitter. "Investigation began when the FBI learned one of your other foreign policy advisors, George Papadopoulos, had been informed Russians had stolen emails and were prepared to help your campaign by releasing them."

Wrong again, Mr. President, no matter how many times you repeat it.

Investigation began when the FBI learned one of your other foreign policy advisors, George Papadopoulos, had been informed Russians had stolen emails and were prepared to help your campaign by releasing them. <https://t.co/dNYrTFOQVB>— Adam Schiff (@RepAdamSchiff) July 23, 2018

After a summit last week with Russian President Vladimir Putin, Trump asserted that he accepts the findings of the U.S. intelligence community that Russia sought to sabotage the U.S. election in 2016.

But he has continued to vigorously deny that his campaign coordinated with Russia, repeatedly calling the Mueller probe a "witch hunt."

In a tweet Sunday night, Trump said it was "all a big hoax."

During a television appearance on Monday, White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said Trump's comment was targeted at allegations of coordination.

"Obviously the president is talking about the collusion with his campaign," she said on "Fox & Friends." "He's been very clear that there wasn't any. I think he's said it about a thousand times."

In his tweets on Monday, Trump also lashed out again at the media for coverage of his summit with Putin in Helsinki.

Much of the coverage in the week since the summit has focused on Trump's refusal to confront Putin more aggressively about election interference and how little has been disclosed about what the two leaders discussed during a closed-door meeting that lasted more than two hours.

"When you hear the Fake News talking negatively about my meeting with President Putin, and all that I gave up, remember, I gave up NOTHING, we merely talked about future benefits for both countries," Trump tweeted. "Also, we got along very well, which is a good thing, except for the Corrupt Media!"

## Trump Makes New Call To End The Mueller Probe

By Louis Nelson

[Politico](#), July 23, 2018

President Donald Trump renewed his complaints Monday about the Russia investigation overseen by special counsel Robert Mueller, and came even closer to instructing law enforcement officials to shut it down.

Trump began his venting by writing online that the probe was triggered by a now-infamous dossier of salacious but unverified information detailing ties between Russia and the president's campaign.

"So we now find out that it was indeed the unverified and Fake Dirty Dossier, that was paid for by Crooked Hillary

Clinton and the DNC, that was knowingly & falsely submitted to FISA and which was responsible for starting the totally conflicted and discredited Mueller Witch Hunt!" Trump tweeted on Monday morning.

The president's tweet comes on the heels of the FBI's release of documents related to the wiretapping of Carter Page, a former aide to the Trump campaign who plays a central role in the allegations of collusion between the Russian government and the president's 2016 election team.

Contrary to Trump's Monday morning tweet, the newly declassified Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court wiretap application shows that investigators did not base their request solely on the infamous dossier, compiled by former British intelligence officer Christopher Steele and funded in part by Hillary Clinton's campaign and the Democratic National Committee, but also on other sources of information.

The documents also show that investigators did inform FISA court judges of the sources of their information, countering a claim made by many supporters of the president.

The president has long complained about Mueller's probe, repeatedly referring to it as a "witch hunt" and insisting that it amounts to little more than an excuse for Democrats embarrassed by Clinton's 2016 presidential election loss.

He has threatened to potentially intervene with the Justice Department, and on Monday, Trump came closer to making good on that threat by writing in a later tweet that law enforcement officials "should drop the discredited Mueller Witch Hunt now!"

The statement came as part of a series of tweets in which Trump quoted comments by Tom Fitton, president of Judicial Watch, on "Fox & Friends."

Trump wrote: "It was classified to cover up misconduct by the FBI and the Justice Department in misleading the Court by using this Dossier in a dishonest way to gain a warrant to target the Trump Team. This is a Clinton Campaign document. It was a fraud and a hoax designed to target Trump and the DOJ, FBI and Obama Gang need to be held to account. Source #1 was the major source. Avoided talking about it being the Clinton campaign behind it. Misled the Court to provide a pretext to SPY on the Trump Team. Not about Carter Page was all about getting Trump. Carter Page wasn't a spy, wasn't an agent of the Russians – he would have cooperated with the FBI. It was a fraud and a hoax designed to target Trump.' Tom Fitton @JudicialWatch A disgrace to America. They should drop the discredited Mueller Witch Hunt now!"

## **AP FACT CHECK: Trump Wrong To Say Records Show FBI Cover-up**

By Anne Flaherty

[Associated Press](#), July 23, 2018

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is mischaracterizing newly released FBI documents on the agency's wiretapping of Carter Page, a onetime campaign adviser. Among his false claims is that the FBI relied on a politically tainted source and withheld that aspect from the court. The documents, available online after media outlets sued for their release, actually suggest the opposite.

Here's a look at how Trump's tweets Monday run counter to the truth:

TRUMP: "Carter Page wasn't a spy, wasn't an agent of the Russians – he would have cooperated with the FBI. It was a fraud and a hoax designed to target Trump."

THE FACTS: Trump is quoting conservative activist Tom Fitton, who appeared on Fox News early Monday. But this assertion flatly contradicts the FBI's characterization of Page as "an agent of a foreign power."

Page denied this description over the weekend. However, according to the FBI, Page "has been the subject of targeted recruitment by the Russian Government" and Russia's goal was "to undermine and improperly and illegally influence the 2016 U.S. Presidential election."

The documents state "the FBI believes that the Russian Government's efforts are being coordinated with Page and perhaps other individuals associated with" Trump's campaign.

TRUMP, on how he thinks the FBI persuaded a court to approve a wiretap of Page: "Source #1 was the major source. Avoided talking about it being the Clinton campaign behind it. Misled the Court to provide a pretext to SPY on the Trump Team. Not about Carter Page..was all about getting Trump....."

THE FACTS: Again, Trump appears to be quoting Fitton. And again, the claims directly contradict findings by the FBI and what was known previously about the Russia probe.

"Source #1" is widely believed to refer to Christopher Steele, a former British spy with extensive Russia connections. As a private consultant, Steele was hired to investigate Trump's ties to Russia as part of opposition research funded by Democrats.

The result of that research was the now-famous "dossier" that provided a detailed narrative of how the Russian government supposedly collaborated with Trump's Republican campaign in an elaborate operation to tilt the 2016 presidential race in his favor.

Trump and his supporters wrongly suggest that the FBI covered up the link between Steele's work and its Democratic funding, and they argue Steele can't be taken seriously because of those connections.

The latest documents, however, plainly note the possible political motive behind hiring Steele: "The FBI speculates that the identified U.S. person was likely looking for information that could be used to discredit" Trump's campaign.

Still, the FBI told the court, it has found Steele's "previous reporting history with the FBI" to be "reliable" and "credible."

Trump's laser focus on Steele ignores other facts as well, including that Page had previously lived in Russia and was on the FBI's radar as early as 2013, when it suspected Russian intelligence agents were trying to recruit Americans.

Also, by the time the FBI requested the wiretap on Page in October 2016, the agency's Russia probe was already in full swing. The investigation was initiated in July 2016, the same month Page went to Russia, where the FBI says he met "with at least two Russian officials during this trip."

TRUMP: "It was classified to cover up misconduct by the FBI and the Justice Department in misleading the Court by using this Dossier in a dishonest way to gain a warrant to target the Trump Team. This is a Clinton Campaign document. It was a fraud and a hoax designed to target Trump ...."

THE FACTS: Wiretap requests are routinely classified to protect sources and methods, not to cover up misconduct by the FBI or Justice Department.

Multiple news organizations, including The Associated Press, requested that the government release the documents under the Freedom of Information Act. The New York Times and others sued for its release, resulting in the documents being posted to the FBI's website.

It's also not correct to call the Steele dossier a "Clinton Campaign document." Steele was hired by Fusion GPS, a private research firm that in turn was hired by a law firm that represented the Democratic campaign. But Clinton's closest aides said they didn't learn about the research until after the election, which is probable considering they never raised the allegations publicly.

Associated Press writer Eric Tucker contributed to this report.

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## How Long Will Republicans Debase Themselves To Trump's Petty Whims?

[Washington Post](#), July 23, 2018

TO GAUGE the corrosive effects of Trumpism, do not look only at how the president demeans his office daily. (This week's exhibits so far: bellicose tweets against Iran and

spiteful threats to revoke security clearances of his critics.) Look also at how, from some combination of fear, coercion and willing appeasement, members of President Trump's party who should know better debase themselves — and degrade Americans' faith in their system of justice — in service of his petty whims.

The Justice Department on Saturday released the warrant applications that investigators submitted to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court asking for permission to surveil former Trump adviser Carter Page. Mr. Trump and his enablers have made the documents central to their claims of FBI bias in its conduct of the Russia probe. In fact, the documents show that the investigative process was sound and the Republican narrative is paranoid, cynical or both.

Participating in the degradation on Sunday was House Judiciary Committee Chairman Bob Goodlatte (R-Va.), who insisted that "there is a serious problem with the FBI" presenting a warrant application that, he claimed, was based on the so-called Steele dossier, a collection of mostly unverified reports about the behavior of Mr. Trump and his associates. As he echoed this line, Sen. Lindsey O. Graham (R-S.C.) said "the warrant, the FISA warrant process needs to be looked at closely by Congress."

Mr. Goodlatte is a key overseer of the nation's legal affairs. Mr. Graham served in the U.S. Air Force JAG Corps. Both should know better than to assist in the trashing of a legitimate federal law enforcement operation.

The facts support a different Republican's take: "You have an individual here who has openly bragged about his ties to Russia," Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) said of Mr. Page. "And the FBI's job is to protect this country from threats. . . . So they look at all this information. They say: We have a guy here who's always in Russia, brags about Russia, and we have reason to believe — and they list those reasons — why this is someone we should be watching. And they followed the legal process by which to do so."

The documents show that federal investigators relied at least in part on the Steele dossier, but they also clearly informed the judges that the dossier came from a politically motivated source. As it happened, the dossier's information on Mr. Page turned out to be more credible than some of its other claims. The documents also contained other information on Mr. Page's connections to Russia. Moreover, as The Post's Philip Bump noted, the redacted sections that appear to contain sensitive information on Mr. Page's activities grew larger with every renewal application.

The documents were compelling enough to persuade judges to authorize the surveillance and renew it three times. This is not surprising: Judges routinely grant warrants on the basis of preliminary evidence. If they did not, law enforcement officials would have an impossible time gathering proof of wrongdoing in cases large and small. You would think Republicans would not want to hamstring law enforcement.

But, as in classic McCarthyism, the number of their targets is expanding even as any evidence of official wrongdoing melts away. On Sunday, Mr. Trump broadcast calls to scrutinize the judges involved. How many Republicans will continue to abet this wanton attack on the Justice Department and the judiciary — on American democracy?

## **McFaul Expected To Meet With Trump's Top Adviser On Russia At White House**

By Washington (DC) Post

[Washington Post](#), July 23, 2018

Michael A. McFaul, a former U.S. diplomat and fierce critic of Russian President Vladimir Putin, will visit the White House on Tuesday for a private meeting with President Trump's top adviser on Russia, according to two people familiar with the planned meeting.

McFaul, who served as U.S. ambassador to Russia during the Obama administration, will meet with Fiona Hill, a senior director on the National Security Council who joined the president for last week's summit with Putin in Helsinki, said the people familiar with the matter, who were not authorized to speak publicly.

Hill is widely seen within the administration as one of Trump's most hawkish advisers on Russia and has written extensively and critically of Putin, including a 2013 biography of the former KGB officer.

Hill's influence on Trump has drawn new scrutiny in recent days as the president has made overtures to Putin. But her willingness to meet with McFaul could be a sign that she is, at the least, interested in connecting with the Stanford University professor as McFaul deals with the fallout from an offer from Putin to Trump.

Last week, White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said Trump was considering Putin's proposal for special counsel Robert S. Mueller III to visit Moscow to interrogate Russian hacking suspects in exchange for Russians' interrogating U.S. officials, including McFaul. Trump initially described the offer as an "interesting idea."

Sanders, however, later ruled out the suggestion in a statement on Thursday, following intense criticism from both Republicans and Democrats about the possibility of sending Americans abroad to be questioned by Russian intelligence officials.

Former secretary of state John F. Kerry tweeted that the offer was "not something that should require a half second of consultation. Dangerous." And the Republican-controlled Senate voted 98-0 last Thursday to approve a resolution urging the U.S. to not make any current or former U.S. diplomats available to Putin.

[White House: Trump opposes Putin's request to interview current and former American officials]

"It is a proposal that was made in sincerity by President Putin, but President Trump disagrees with it," Sanders said. "Hopefully, President Putin will have the 12 identified Russians come to the United States to prove their innocence or guilt."

It is unclear whether Hill and McFaul have a specific agenda for the meeting or if the Trump administration is considering taking further steps to reassure McFaul that he is not at risk of being sent to Russia as part of any future agreement with Putin, the people said. The White House announced last week that the president had invited Putin to visit Washington this fall.

As the summit unfolded in Helsinki and the two leaders held a news conference, McFaul wondered on Twitter whether Hill agreed with the president's political embrace of the Russian leader.

"I remember all the tough talk on Russia from [Secretary of State Mike] Pompeo's confirmation hearings, [national security adviser John] Bolton's TV appearances, and Fiona Hill's writings," McFaul wrote. "I wonder what they were thinking today."

Speaking last Wednesday on MSNBC, McFaul said he was stunned by the administration's response to Putin's offer.

"It's been a weird couple of days," McFaul said. "I was totally flabbergasted by why the White House would not defend me."

A White House spokesperson declined to comment.

A second White House official said McFaul requested a meeting with the National Security Council and added that the NSC accepted out of courtesy.

McFaul declined to comment.

McFaul served as U.S. ambassador to Russia from 2012 to 2014, a tumultuous period in relations between the two countries. President Barack Obama signed the Magnitsky Act into law in 2012, prompting retaliation from Russia that included banning U.S. adoptions of Russian orphans. McFaul was often the target of anti-American attacks in the Russian media and said he ended up being Putin's "personal foe."

## **Donald Trump's Legal Team Submits Counteroffer For Possible Interview In Mueller Probe**

**Trump lawyer Rudy Giuliani says president open to questions on possible collusion, less willing to discuss possible obstruction of justice**

By Rebecca Ballhaus

[Wall Street Journal](#), July 23, 2018

Full-text stories from the Wall Street Journal are available to Journal subscribers by clicking the link.



## Judge Delays Ex-Trump Campaign Chairman Paul Manafort's Criminal Trial Until July 31

By Kevin Johnson

[USA Today](#), July 23, 2018

The criminal trial of former Trump campaign chief Paul Manafort was delayed until next week to give defense attorneys additional time to review thousands of documents recently provided by prosecutors.

The ruling by U.S. District Judge T.S. Ellis III comes on the eve of the bank and tax fraud case that was to open Wednesday with jury selection.

Ellis reset jury selection for July 31 and urged Manafort's team to expedite its review of 120,000 documents.

Manafort's trial on bank and tax fraud charges had been scheduled to begin Wednesday.

Manafort, dressed in a green jail jumpsuit, was in the courtroom as his attorneys argued for the delay. He did not speak during the hearing, but did acknowledge his wife with a smile during a brief break.

"These 120,000 pages are really at the heart of the issue," Manafort lawyer Kevin Downing argued Monday.

Prosecutors claimed that a large portion of the new documents – about 40,000 pages of information – were culled from electronic devices of former Trump campaign deputy Rick Gates, who was initially charged with Manafort but is now cooperating with the government.

The material includes photographs and possibly notes that prosecutors believe were not relevant to the government's case. Downing, however, said the defense needed to make its own determination about the documents' relevance.

"There are equities and reasons on both sides," Ellis said Monday, explaining his decision.

The judge, however, said he would move forward Tuesday with the previously scheduled plan to assemble prospective jurors so that they can begin completing questionnaires to assist the court and attorneys in identifying possible conflicts that may disqualify some panelists.

Ellis said a jury of 12 and four alternates would ultimately be seated to consider the case.

Ellis has ordered the government to provide a complete list of witnesses to the defense, including the names of up to five who will be granted immunity for their testimony.

In all, the government is expected to call about 30 witnesses in the case.

Ellis also unsealed the identities of five government witnesses who have been provided immunity in exchange for their testimony.

Until Monday, their names had been protected from disclosure by the court.

The witnesses are James Brennan, Donna Duggan, Conor O'Brien, Cindy Laporta and Dennis Raico.

Their relationships to Manafort were not immediately clear.

## Manafort Trial Postponed To July 31

By Darren Samuelsohn

[Politico](#), July 23, 2018

Paul Manafort's first criminal trial has been postponed a week, to July 31.

U.S. District Court Judge T.S. Ellis III agreed Monday to the weeklong delay, pushing back the biggest showdown yet between the former Donald Trump campaign chairman and special counsel Robert Mueller.

But Ellis rejected Manafort's larger request to postpone his trial on bank and tax fraud charges until later this fall, after a separate case goes to trial in Washington, D.C.

Potential jurors will still gather starting Tuesday at the federal courthouse in Alexandria, Virginia, when Ellis said he will begin briefing them on the particulars of the first of Mueller's high-profile cases to reach trial.

Delivering his ruling on the start date from the bench, Ellis agreed to give Manafort's defense attorneys more time to review thousands of pages of evidence that they've recently received from Mueller's prosecutors. That includes materials obtained from Rick Gates, the longtime Manafort business partner who pleaded guilty in February and whose cooperation with the special counsel is expected to factor into the upcoming court case.

Ellis, an appointee of President Ronald Reagan, also warned prosecutors for Mueller and Manafort's defense attorneys that they would not be allowed to quiz potential jurors on whether they supported Trump or Hillary Clinton in the 2016 election.

"We're not going to go inquire into how people voted," Ellis said.

Mueller's prosecutors initially filed charges against Manafort last October and have since added new indictments accusing him of making tens of millions of dollars working as an unregistered lobbyist for a Ukrainian political party, channeling his income into offshore accounts, and then using the money in the U.S. to buy houses, cars, sports tickets, jewelry and other goods while lying to tax and banking officials about his earnings and wealth.

Mueller was tapped last year to investigate Russian interference in the 2016 election and whether any Trump associates helped, but he can pursue crimes he discovers in the course of that probe. His case against Manafort has been his most attention-grabbing so far, even though it doesn't directly relate to the 2016 campaign.

Ellis on Monday ordered Mueller to release his entire roster of about 30 potential witnesses, including the identities of five people that his prosecutors have granted immunity in exchange for their testimony against Manafort.

A short time later, the lead Russia investigator named the immunized witnesses: Donna Duggan, Conor O'Brien, James Brennan, Cindy Laporta and Dennis Raico. All had indicated plans to invoke their Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination had they been forced to take the witness stand.

O'Brien and Laporta both worked on preparing Manafort's tax returns at the accounting firm Kositzka, Wicks and Company, according to a person with knowledge of the trial. The firm didn't respond to a request for comment.

One person who is not on Mueller's list is Tony Podesta, the founder of the Podesta Group lobbying shop and brother of Hillary Clinton's 2016 campaign chairman, John Podesta. Fox News host Tucker Carlson cited two unnamed sources last week to report that Tony Podesta would be called in the Manafort trial, but that has not proven to be the case.

Manafort sat upright at the defense table during the Monday morning hearing before Ellis, wearing a green jail jumpsuit. He was clean shaven and frequently read documents and conferred with his team of attorneys. As he exited the chamber, the defendant briefly smiled at his wife, Kathleen Manafort, who was seated in the courtroom's front row and shook hands with his lawyers.

With Ellis's permission, Manafort did not return to the court for the afternoon session. When he returns for his trial, Ellis told the defendant he was to be dressed in "appropriate clothing."

The special counsel's office has already detailed hundreds of pieces of evidence that could be discussed during the trial. But during Monday morning's hearing, Ellis sounded a skeptical note about the relevance of some of the materials.

"The New York Yankees don't have anything to do with this case?" the judge asked one of Manafort's lawyers, who replied that the baseball team could indeed be a topic of discussion since Mueller had listed his client's season ticket licensing agreements as potential evidence.

Ellis signaled his reluctance to let the trial veer into "irrelevant stuff" that had little to do with the direct charges the longtime GOP operative faces.

"I'm not going to allow this trial to drag on," Ellis said. "I'm not in the theater business. You have to be better-looking than that."

During Monday's hearing on the motion to delay the trial, Manafort's attorneys argued they were scrambling to review thousands of pages of documents that they'd only recently received from Mueller's prosecutors, including materials from Manafort's former bookkeeper and pictures and notes contained on cell phones, an iPad and laptop belonging to Gates.

Reviewing those documents before the trial "is really the heart of the issue right now," said Manafort attorney Kevin Downing.

Ellis ultimately rejected Manafort's bid for a delay until after the completion of the Washington trial, which is scheduled to start Sept. 17 and involve allegations of money laundering and failing to register as a foreign agent in connection with his Ukraine-related lobbying work.

Mueller's prosecutors, who have been resistant to switching around the order of the trials, have said the Virginia case will likely take three weeks to complete.

Shifting into final pre-trial preparations, Ellis ruled Monday afternoon on several motions spelling out what can or can't be discussed when the 12 jurors and four alternates are seated. He granted Manafort's request limiting the details about the defendant's Washington, D.C. case solely to information about the Gates plea agreement. Jurors also won't be told Manafort has been jailed since mid-June on witness tampering charges.

But Manafort lost a bid to limit what gets mentioned during the trial about his role in the Trump campaign. While the special counsel's team again confirmed to Ellis that it didn't intend to speak broadly about its investigation into any Russian collusion with the Republican White House campaign in 2016, it does plan to describe Manafort's work for Trump: namely a claim that he succeeded in getting \$16 million in loans from Chicago's Federal Savings Bank in late 2016 and early 2017 in part because the bank's chairman and CEO, Stephen Calk, was named to the Trump campaign's economic advisory board and was seeking a top post at the Pentagon.

The Virginia federal court where Manafort first faces trial is widely known as the "rocket docket" because of its speediness. With that reputation in mind, Ellis said that even with a weeklong delay on the trial's start he would keep the process moving on Tuesday by meeting with the entire jury pool. They will be given a questionnaire to gauge what they know about the details of the case.

Manafort's attorneys had signaled an interest in finding out whether the jurors had voted in the 2016 presidential election, their main source of news and whether they or immediate family members or friends had ever run for political office.

Prosecutors for Mueller, meantime, have told Ellis they want to ask jurors if they have "strong feelings about the tax system of the United States or the Internal Revenue Service" and whether violations of tax laws should be prosecuted as crimes by the U.S.

They also want to know if there's anything about Manafort or Mueller "that would prevent or hinder" jurors from reaching a fair and impartial verdict in the case.

Theodoric Meyer and Kyle Cheney contributed reporting.

## U.S. Judge Agrees To Delay Manafort Trial Until Next Week

By Sarah N. Lynch

[Reuters](#), July 23, 2018

Full-text stories from Reuters currently cannot be included in this document. You may, however, click the link above to access the story.

## Manafort Judge Deals Blow To Mueller Probe

By Lia Eustachewich

[New York Post](#), July 23, 2018

A federal judge in Virginia agreed Monday to grant immunity to five potential witnesses in Paul Manafort's upcoming trial — but, in a blow to special counsel Robert Mueller, said their identities would be made public.

Mueller's team wanted the identities of their witnesses to remain confidential, saying in a filing last week that they haven't been criminally charged and not naming them would avoid "undue harassment."

But Judge T.S. Ellis, a Ronald Reagan appointee, said they would be identified.

He also ordered Mueller's office to provide a list of about 30 witnesses to Manafort's lawyers.

President Trump's ex-campaign chairman was in court seeking a postponement of his financial fraud trial, which is scheduled to begin Wednesday.

He also faces similar charges, and charges of witness tampering, in Washington.

Ellis said he would rule on whether to issue a delay later in the day.

## Paul Manafort's Trial In Virginia Delayed Until July 31

[Washington Post](#), July 21, 2018

A banker knew Paul Manafort had submitted a fraudulent loan application but approved it anyway in hopes it would help him land a job in the Trump campaign and possibly the White House, prosecutors said in Alexandria federal court Monday.

The allegation came the same day Judge T.S. Ellis III delayed Manafort's trial until July 31, after defense attorneys said they needed more time to review the large number of documents involved.

Manafort, President Trump's onetime campaign chairman, appeared in court for the first time since his June incarceration. The case against him was brought by the special counsel investigating Russian interference in the 2016 election.

Lawyers on both sides Monday sought to limit the evidence presented at the Virginia trial. Prosecutor Greg Andres said the special counsel planned to be "discreet" in raising related charges Manafort faces in District federal

court, the work he did in Ukraine that is at the center of both cases, and the president himself.

"I don't anticipate the word 'Russia' will be uttered by a government witness," Andres said.

When defense attorneys questioned the inclusion of photographs of Ukrainian oligarchs, he promised, "There will be no pictures of scantily clad women."

Ellis noted such evidence could be prejudicial, given "the antipathy towards Russia" and that "most Americans can't distinguish between Ukraine and Russia."

But Andres said Manafort's role in the campaign was essential to one bank fraud count, because a lender "went along with the fraud so he could get a job."

Andres said the banker "did know information presented was not accurate" but that he sought an appointment . . . from Mr. Manafort."

According to court filings, Manafort obtained \$16 million in loans from a "Lender D," identified in other court documents as Federal Savings Bank. The bank's chairman, Stephen Calk, had an advisory role in the Trump campaign. Calk could not immediately be reached for comment.

Asked whether Calk's purported knowledge made the fraud count moot, Andres replied that "the fraud was on the bank and not just the individual."

Ellis approved the mention of Trump in that limited fashion.

In a dispute regarding what jurors would learn of the work Manafort did for then-Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich, Ellis said he would rule after seeing relevant exhibits.

Defense attorneys, meanwhile, pledged that they would not argue Manafort was "selectively and vindictively" prosecuted. But they said they would like to reserve the ability to question the motives of the special counsel.

"This court has commented in open court and in filings on the motives of the prosecution," defense attorney Thomas Zehnle said. Ellis has repeatedly said that he believes Manafort is only being prosecuted in hopes that he will offer information on Trump.

"Even though I've said what I think the motive is, doesn't mean it's admissible at trial," Ellis said. But he said if defense attorneys have a reason to raise motive, they can make an argument at the bench during the trial "in living color."

The two sides will on Tuesday debate a questionnaire that will be given to potential jurors.

Manafort would like Ellis, the judge, to ask jurors where they get their news, the extent of their involvement in politics and whether they voted in the 2016 election. The government is interested in whether jurors have strong feelings about the Internal Revenue Service and tax laws, the special counsel, and Manafort himself.

Ellis also approved and unsealed motions to compel five government witnesses to testify: James Brennan, Conor O'Brien, Donna Duggan, Cindy Laporta, Dennis Raico. Laporta's accounting firm confirmed Manafort was once a client and that current or former employees may testify.

Devlin Barrett contributed to this report.

## **Judge Postpones Paul Manafort Trial Until Next Week**

By Chad Day

[Associated Press](#), July 23, 2018

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal judge on Monday postponed the trial of former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort until next week.

The tax and bank fraud trial had been scheduled to start Wednesday in federal court in Alexandria, Virginia.

But U.S. District Judge T.S. Ellis III pushed the trial back until July 31 to give Manafort's lawyers more time to review thousands of pages of data and documents turned over by special counsel Robert Mueller's office in the last several weeks.

The documents come from a firm that handled Manafort's bookkeeping and the electronic devices of Rick Gates, his longtime business associate. Gates pleaded guilty earlier this year and is expected to testify against Manafort.

Manafort's trial will be the first arising from Mueller's investigation into potential coordination between the Trump campaign and Russia during the 2016 presidential election.

The indictment against Manafort doesn't focus on his work on the Trump campaign or accuse him of being involved in election interference. Instead, it accuses him of funneling the proceeds of Ukrainian political consulting work through offshore accounts and using the funds to pay for a lavish lifestyle.

Manafort has pleaded not guilty and denied all the charges. He faces a separate trial in the District of Columbia, where he was indicted last October.

In addition to pushing the trial back, Ellis on Monday approved and unsealed requests from Mueller's prosecutors to offer immunity to five witnesses in exchange for their testimony.

Prosecutors had asked for the information to be sealed unless and until the witnesses actually testified. The immunity offers mean prosecutors will not use the witnesses' statements against them in any criminal case.

Prosecutors also disclosed that they will be presenting a limited amount of evidence regarding Manafort's connection to the Trump campaign as well as his ties to former Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich.

Prosecutor Greg Andres told Ellis that Manafort's position in the Trump campaign is relevant to some of the bank fraud charges because a chairman of one of the banks

allowed Manafort to file inaccurate loan information in exchange for a job on the campaign and the promise of a job in the Trump administration.

Andres did not name the bank employee but noted that the Trump administration position never materialized.

Jury selection in the case is set to begin next week, a process Ellis said he would be keeping tight control over.

The judge said he wouldn't allow either side to ask jurors how they voted or allow the case to get "engulfed" in "irrelevant stuff" that has to do less with Manafort's guilt or innocence and more to do with "theater."

"I'm not in the theater business," Ellis said.

Associated Press writer Eric Tucker contributed to this report.

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## **Trump Says He 'Gave Up Nothing' At Putin Meeting**

By Reuters Staff

[Reuters](#), July 23, 2018

Full-text stories from Reuters currently cannot be included in this document. You may, however, click the link above to access the story.

## **Mike Pompeo: Critics Crying 'treason' Over Russia Are 'political Hacks'**

By Joel Gehrke

[Washington Examiner](#), July 23, 2018

Senators who accuse President Trump of "treason" over his comportment following his summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin "have become political hacks," the nation's top diplomat suggested Monday.

"I actually looked back at some of the senators' statements when Obama was — the president was Barack Obama," Secretary of State Mike Pompeo told the Christian Broadcasting Network. "They were talking about the need for important and good relationship between somehow — somehow they have either changed their mind or they've become pure political hacks. I suspect it's the latter and not the former."

Pompeo, a Kansas Republican lawmaker before joining the Trump administration as CIA director, was responding to a question about "the media and the liberals ... hammering this president on open treason." The denunciation of Trump reached a fever pitch following his joint press conference with Putin, as the U.S. president cast doubt on Putin's responsibility for the 2016 election interference and blamed the United States for the deterioration of U.S.-Russia ties.



"There is no sugarcoating this," said Rep. Adam Smith, D-Wash. "It is hard to see President Trump siding with Vladimir Putin over our own intelligence community and our criminal investigators as anything other than treason."

Smith added later that "treason might have been a little bit of hyperbole." But other colleagues raised the specter of blackmail to explain Trump's comments.

"It was the act of a man who seems incapable of distinguishing between his own narrow, personal interests and the interests of American national security," Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., said on the floor of the upper chamber. "There's seems to be no rational explanation for President Trump's behaviors and so millions of Americans are left wondering if Putin indeed has something over the president."

One Republican even hinted at the "treason" charge. "By choosing to reject object reality in Helsinki, the president let down the free world by giving aid and comfort to an enemy of democracy," retiring Sen. Jeff Flake, R-Ariz., one of Trump's most ardent GOP critics, said last week in an echo of the constitutional definition of treason.

Pompeo mocked those charges. "Yeah, it's silly," he said.

"This administration has been incredibly tough on Russia," he also maintained. "We're proud of that, and I'm confident we'll have to continue to do so as there is still Russian behavior that is inconsistent with a good relationship between our two countries."

Just days after the summit, the Defense Department announced the provision of \$200 million for Ukraine's military, which is engaged in a running war with Russian-backed military forces.

For his part, Trump generally has avoided criticizing Putin or Russia directly, in keeping with his practice on the campaign trail. But although Trump's posture towards Russia is most controversial against the backdrop of the 2016 election interference, Putin isn't the only authoritarian to enjoy Trump's flattery in the context of high-level talks. North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un was also spared any criticism during their Singapore summit. Trump went so far as to claim that Kim "loves" the North Korean people, despite the brutality of his regime.

"He's a funny guy, he's very smart, he's a great negotiator," Trump told Voice of America. "He loves his people, not that I'm surprised by that, but he loves his people."

He stood by that compliment when asked for a message to deliver directly to the North Korean people. But he paired the praise, it seemed, with an explanation about his efforts to develop a personal relationship with the dictator.

"He wants to do right by them, and we got along really well," Trump said. "We had a great chemistry — you understand how I feel about chemistry. It's very important. I

mean, I know people where there is no chemistry no matter what you do you just don't have it. We had it right from the beginning. I talked about that, and I think great things are going to happen for North Korea."

Trump sounded a similar note when defending his Helsinki performance last week. "I got severely criticized by the Fake News Media for being too nice to President Putin," he tweeted. "In the Old Days they would call it Diplomacy. If I was loud & vicious, I would have been criticized for being too tough. Remember when they said I was too tough with Chairman Kim? Hypocrites!"

Pompeo maintained that the outreach wouldn't undermine U.S. defenses against Russia. "It is this administration's mission to raise the costs for Russian activity of that kind to attempt to deter them," he told CBN. "We're eyes wide open about Russia's efforts to undermine western democracy. We're going to do our level best to stop them. And when we don't stop them, we will call them out for it and make sure they understand that that type of behavior is unacceptable."

## **Unhinged: New Poll Shows The Majority Of Democrats Believe President Trump Is A Traitor**

By Katie Pavlich

[Townhall](#), July 23, 2018

Since socialist Bernie Sanders lost to Democrat Hillary Clinton during the 2016 presidential election, the Democratic Party has been locked in a civil war over the direction of authoritarian politics and policies.

But there is some agreement on the left side of the aisle when it comes to President Donald Trump. According to a new Rasmussen Reports survey, the majority of Democrats believe the commander-in-chief is a traitor.

Democrats strongly defend those who think President Trump is a traitor. Other voters say they're just playing politics with the claim.

The latest Rasmussen Reports national telephone and online survey finds that 65% of Likely Democratic Voters believe critics of Trump's recent meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin truly believe he is a treasonous Russian puppet.

Former CIA Director John Brennan, who was in charge of the spy agency under President Obama, made the treason charge last week after President Trump met with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Helsinki.

Meanwhile, since President Trump's meeting with Putin, his approval rating has gone up. Another summit with Putin is being planned for the fall in the U.S.

## **Denver Post Runs Letter To Editor Suggesting Trump Should Be Executed**

By Elizabeth Harrington

[Washington Free Beacon](#), July 23, 2018

The Denver Post published a letter to the editor suggesting President Donald Trump should be executed for treason.

The letter criticized the president and Sen. Cory Gardner (R., Colo.) following Trump's summit with Vladimir Putin in Helsinki, Finland, and said Soviet spies Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, who passed atomic bomb secrets to Moscow, were executed for "far less."

The letter, written by Suzanne Gagnon of Lakewood, was in response to the paper's editorial last week, which gave tepid praise of Gardner. The editorial argued the Republican senator "deserves credit" for taking a tough stance against Russia and sponsoring legislation to add Russia to the state sponsor of terror list.

"Sen. Cory Gardner is insipid, at best," Gagnon wrote in her letter to the editor published Saturday. "His words are always carefully chosen and, if challenged, their intent open to 'spinning' to his own advantage. No surprise here he didn't call President Donald Trump out by name.

"The legislation he has proposed is weak, not tough; it's simply more wordsmithing," she said. "Gardner is certainly not the only politician I take issue with, but I don't see The Denver Post championing anyone else like you champion Gardner."

Gagnon then compared Trump to the Rosenbergs, who were tried and put to death for espionage in 1953. She said there are "many more actions" that should be taken against Trump.

"If it walks like a traitor, and talks like a traitor, and acts like a traitor ... it is a traitor," Gagnon said. "Ethel and Julius Rosenberg were executed on a basis of far less evidence than is had on Trump and many in his administration."

"Besides being in agreement with the actions recommended in the editorial of July 19, I believe there are many more actions that can and should be taken against Trump to keep him from destroying the U.S.," she said. "If our leader doesn't support any swift, significant pushback against Russian meddling, our votes aren't worth much."

Compass Colorado, a conservative nonprofit organization, said the editorial is in line with the "increasingly violent tone" of political rhetoric on the left.

"The mere fact the Denver Post would publish a letter to the editor with this type of language speaks to both the increasingly violent tone of liberals in Colorado politics and the desperation of the Post for readership," said Kelly Maher, executive director of Compass Colorado.

"This trend of violent language in Colorado is deeply concerning," she said. "Just a few months ago the Boulder Daily Camera published a letter to the editor asking if citizens have a moral responsibility to take arms against oil and gas well workers, and the liberal group ProgressNow Colorado

tweeted out a picture of Senator Cory Gardner with blood on his hands after a shooting, and now this Denver Post letter."

"This violent and divisive rhetoric will do nothing to change hearts or minds, it's designed to entrench and inflame," Maher said.

## **Saturday, July 21, 2018 Letters: Unaffiliated Voters, Sen. Cory Gardner**

By Denver (CO) Post

[Denver Post](#), July 22, 2018

Academic research demonstrates that most unaffiliated voters are the least informed participants in elections. Among the many functions of political parties is their role in educating their members. In his glowing assessment of the involvement of unaffiliated voters in Colorado's recent primary election, Kent Thiry, CEO of DaVita, either ignores this or is himself ignorant of it.

He also fails to note that: so-called "independents" are generally not independent, but instead are simply weak supporters of one of the major parties — a major reason why independent candidates do so poorly; unaffiliated voters participated in the primary at a much lower rate than registered Democrats and Republicans; and there is no evidence that their participation made a difference in the primary election outcomes. Given their lack of knowledge, we can only be thankful for the latter two facts.

Thad Tecza, Denver Gardner isn't doing enough

Re: "Gardner's bill is tough on Trump," July 20 editorial

Sen. Cory Gardner is insipid, at best. His words are always carefully chosen and, if challenged, their intent open to "spinning" to his own advantage. No surprise here he didn't call President Donald Trump out by name. The legislation he has proposed is weak, not tough; it's simply more wordsmithing. Gardner is certainly not the only politician I take issue with, but I don't see The Denver Post championing anyone else like you champion Gardner.

If it walks like a traitor, and talks like a traitor, and acts like a traitor ... it is a traitor. Ethel and Julius Rosenberg were executed on a basis of far less evidence than is had on Trump and many in his administration. Besides being in agreement with the actions recommended in the editorial of July 19, I believe there are many more actions that can and should be taken against Trump to keep him from destroying the U.S.

If our leader doesn't support any swift, significant pushback against Russian meddling, our votes aren't worth much.

Suzanne Gagnon, Lakewood

What Gardener and other Republicans should be doing is openly condemning the remarks that Trump made about our intelligence agencies and strongly objecting to Trump's veneration of Putin. As The Post said in its editorial, if a

Democratic president spoke and acted that way, Republicans would be calling for his head on a platter.

Robert H. Moulton III, Commerce City

Your editorial lauding Gardner for being “tough” on Trump rings hollow. As with nearly all Republicans, Gardner instead of standing up to Trump on substance and principle, has become a coward, afraid to confront him on major issues such as the economy, trade, environment, value of a free press, national security, and the credibility of our justice system, to say nothing of Trump’s strange affection for autocrats and dictators. Gardner needs to ask himself if he is for Trump or if he is for the United States of America. At present those options are mutually exclusive, and it becomes more obvious each day that one cannot be for both.

Ira Joseph, Colorado Springs

## **White House: Bolton To Meet With Russian Counterpart Next Month**

By Alexander Nieves

[Politico](#), July 23, 2018

White House national security adviser John Bolton plans to meet with his Russian counterpart next month to follow up on President Donald Trump’s historic sit-down with Russian President Vladimir Putin, White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said Monday.

Sanders’ statement came in response to a question about why the White House still hasn’t released details about the closed-door meeting between the two leaders a week after it took place.

“The only specific agreement made was the two national security teams from both the United States and Russia would continue at a working level,” she said at the press briefing before making the announcement about Bolton.

Sanders said that in addition to meeting with his Russian counterpart, Bolton will meet with European allies, though the focus of those discussions was unclear.

Sanders announced on Twitter last Thursday that Trump had asked Bolton to invite Putin to a second summit in Washington, D.C., just three days after the presidents met in Finland with only their translators present. Trump created a political firestorm in the news conference after the meeting when he said he saw no reason why Russia would have meddled in U.S. elections, contradicting the consensus view of the U.S. intelligence agencies that Putin directly ordered a cyber-campaign to disrupt the election process.

Trump attempted to walk back the statement after facing intense criticism, saying he meant to say that he didn’t see why it “wouldn’t” be Russia that interfered in the election. However, he again seemed to contradict his stance on the matter Sunday night, incorrectly tweeting that the Obama administration didn’t tell Trump’s campaign about Russia

“because it is all a big hoax.” In fact, according to multiple news outlets, the intelligence agencies briefed Trump on Russia’s election interference in August 2016.

Sanders said the White House has yet to hammer out the specific details for Bolton’s planned meetings with Russia and European allies.

## **Prosecutors Have A Dozen Recordings Made By Former Trump Attorney Michael Cohen**

By John Fritze

[USA Today](#), July 23, 2018

Federal prosecutors received a dozen audio tapes seized in April from President Donald Trump’s former personal attorney, Michael Cohen, according to a court filing made public Monday.

The tapes were taken during raids on Cohen’s offices and home. Special master Barbara Jones has been reviewing the material to determine which items are privileged and which can be made available to prosecutors. In a court filing Monday, Jones said she made the tapes available after claims to shield them were withdrawn.

Though the content of the recordings is not known, the disclosure of their existence comes days after news broke that Cohen secretly recorded his conversations with Trump. USA TODAY confirmed that in one of those conversations Trump discussed payments to a former Playboy model who claimed to have had an affair with Trump.

Trump has repeatedly lashed out at the seizure of Cohen’s documents.

## **12 Audio Files Sent To Prosecutors In Michael Cohen Probe**

By Larry Neumeister

[Associated Press](#), July 23, 2018

NEW YORK (AP) — A dozen audio recordings seized by the FBI from President Donald Trump’s former lawyer, Michael Cohen, were forwarded to federal prosecutors after lawyers dropped challenges on attorney-client privilege grounds, a former judge revealed Monday.

The recordings were among millions of files taken from Cohen in April as part of a criminal probe of his business practices.

Barbara Jones, a court-appointed lawyer and former Manhattan federal judge helping to decide which of the seized files are protected by privilege, said in a court filing that prosecutors received the recordings on Friday after attorneys for Trump, Cohen and the Trump Organization dropped privilege claims.

The same day, Trump attorney Rudy Giuliani said Cohen had recorded a conversation in which the president had discussed a potential payment to squash the story of a former Playboy model who said she had an affair with Trump.

Giuliani said the brief recording shows Trump did nothing wrong.

"The transaction that Michael is talking about on the tape never took place, but what's important is: If it did take place, the president said it has to be done correctly and it has to be done by check" to keep a proper record of it, Giuliani said.

In a weekend tweet, Trump called Cohen's practice of recording conversations "totally unheard of & perhaps illegal."

Attorney Lanny Davis, speaking on Cohen's behalf, has said what is on the tape will not harm Cohen.

Jones has been providing periodic updates on the privilege review of over four million items, mostly electronic, that were found on numerous computer storage devices and cellular phones seized from Cohen.

Late Thursday, Jones notified U.S. District Judge Kimba Wood, who appointed her, that Cohen, Trump or the Trump Organization had designated 4,085 items seized from Cohen as privileged among the most recent items she reviewed.

She wrote that she agreed that 2,633 were privileged, in full or part, but that 1,452 items were not. She said lawyers for Cohen still disagreed about 22 of those items but said they would not pursue their objections. With that, Jones released them all to prosecutors.

Jones wrote in Monday's filing that the parties withdrew their designations of privilege as to a dozen audio recordings that were being reviewed by Jones. She said she then released them to prosecutors.

Jones said she was continuing to review other items.

Cohen has not been charged with a crime.

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## **New Audio Materials Seized In Cohen Inquiry Are Turned Over To Prosecutors**

By Benjamin Weiser

[New York Times](#), July 23, 2018

Federal prosecutors in Manhattan who are investigating President Trump's longtime personal lawyer, Michael D. Cohen, have received 12 audio "items" that had been seized by the F.B.I. but had been withheld from investigators, according to a court filing on Monday.

The materials, presumably audio recordings, were turned over to prosecutors on Friday after "the parties" withdrew claims that the items were subject to attorney-client privilege, the filing said.

The authorities have been investigating Mr. Cohen's role in making hush-money payments to women in advance of the 2016 election, and whether any such action violated federal campaign finance laws.

Also on Friday, The New York Times reported that two months before the election Mr. Cohen had secretly recorded a conversation with Mr. Trump, in which they discussed payments to a former Playboy model, Karen McDougal, who had claimed she had an affair with Mr. Trump.

Under a process set up by a federal judge, items seized by the F.B.I. in searches of Mr. Cohen's home, office and hotel room in April have been undergoing a review by a court-appointed special master, Barbara S. Jones, to determine whether any of the materials were privileged and should not be given to the government.

The court filing on Monday does not specify the contents of the 12 audio items.

Lawyers for Mr. Cohen, President Trump and Mr. Trump's private business, the Trump Organization, have been working with Ms. Jones to identify which materials they believe should be deemed privileged. Ms. Jones submitted the Monday court filing, which provided a brief update on her review.

"On July 20, 2018, the parties withdrew their designations of 'privileged' as to 12 audio items that were under consideration by the special master," Ms. Jones wrote. "Based upon those de-designations, the special master released the 12 items to the government that day."

The court filing does not specify which "parties" withdrew the privilege claims on the audio items, but one of Mr. Cohen's lawyers, Lanny J. Davis, writing on Twitter on Monday, suggested that the decision to withdraw the privilege designation had come from President Trump.

"Latest news @MichaelCohen212 tapes of conversations are being released by @realDonaldTrump & his legal team who own and waived the privilege," Mr. Davis wrote. "Will @RudyGiuliani call these tapes 'exculpatory' again?" he added. "As I noted before, the tapes will speak for themselves — spin can't change facts."

Mr. Davis appears to have been referring to comments by Mr. Trump's personal lawyer, Rudolph W. Giuliani, who confirmed in the recent Times report that Mr. Trump had discussed payments to Ms. McDougal on the recording.

According to the Times report, Mr. Giuliani described the recording as less than two minutes long, and said it gave no indication that Mr. Trump knew before the conversation about the payment to Ms. McDougal.

"Nothing in that conversation suggests that he had any knowledge of it in advance," Mr. Giuliani was quoted as saying.

Lawyers for Mr. Trump and the Trump Organization did not respond to requests for comment; the United States attorney's office declined to comment. Ms. Jones's filing said that her review was continuing.



## Michael Cohen Prosecutors Get 12 Audio Recordings To Review

By Christian Berthelsen, Bob Van Voris, Shannon Pettypiece

[Bloomberg News](#), July 23, 2018

U.S. prosecutors probing Michael Cohen are reviewing 12 audio recordings seized in an April raid of the home, office and hotel room of President Donald Trump's former lawyer and fixer.

The president is heard on only one of the 12 recordings, according to people familiar with the matter. The others are of individuals discussing Trump, according to the people, who declined to comment on confidential details of the investigation.

Disclosure of the new recordings came in a Monday court filing by the retired judge who is deciding whether prosecutors may review the thousands of items seized in the raid. The judge said "the parties" – presumably Trump and perhaps Cohen – no longer object to the government listening to "12 audio items." The parties had previously claimed the 12 recordings were "privileged" and couldn't be seen by the government.

Trump can be heard on a recording in which he and Cohen discuss payments to a former Playboy model who claimed she'd had an affair with Trump – an audio whose existence became known on Friday. On it, Trump and Cohen discuss a plan to buy the rights to Karen McDougal's story from American Media Inc., the parent company of the National Enquirer, the Washington Post reported. AMI paid \$150,000 for her story.

News of that recording spurred speculation that Cohen recorded other conversations.

It was Trump's legal team that initially asserted privilege over all 12 audio recordings, according to people familiar with the matter. But Trump's legal team later withdrew the claim, they said.

A lawyer for Trump didn't immediately respond to a call for comment. Lanny Davis, a lawyer and spokesman for Cohen, said in a statement posted to Twitter: "The tapes will speak for themselves – spin can't change facts."

The recordings were given to the government on Friday, Barbara Jones, the retired judge and so-called special master overseeing the review, said in her one-page order.

She didn't specify what's on the recordings.

Federal prosecutors in Manhattan are probing Cohen's business dealings and his involvement in paying women to keep quiet about their alleged relationships with Trump.

Michael Avenatti, who represents adult film star Stormy Daniels in a lawsuit against Trump and Cohen, said in an email that Monday's filing "confirmed" what he said in May: that "there were multiple recordings."

It's unclear why Trump's team decided to abandon the privilege claims. His lawyers may have wanted to avoid potentially adverse rulings that the conversations weren't protected – either because they sought to advance a crime or fraud or because Cohen wasn't acting as Trump's lawyer at the time. Or they may have concluded that the discussions simply weren't privileged, said Harry Sandick, a white-collar defense lawyer at Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler LLP in New York.

The case is In the Matter of Search Warrants Executed on April 9, 2018, 18-mj-3161, Southern District of New York (Manhattan).

— With assistance by Erik Larson

## Prosecutors Have At Least 12 Recordings By Trump Lawyer Cohen

By Brendan Pierson And Karen Freifeld

[Reuters](#), July 23, 2018

Full-text stories from Reuters currently cannot be included in this document. You may, however, click the link above to access the story.

## Stormy Daniels' Husband Files For Divorce

By Tmz

[TMZ](#), July 23, 2018

Stormy Daniels' husband has filed for divorce, a week after Daniels was arrested at an Ohio strip club, and told police she was no longer married.

Daniels' attorney, Michael Avenatti, made the announcement Monday, saying, "My client Stormy Daniels and her husband Glen have decided to end their marriage ... Stormy's daughter remains her number one priority."

Daniels married former porn honcho Glendon Crain in 2015 ... the two have rarely been seen together in public since Daniels came forward with claims against President Trump.

According to docs, Crain has filed for a restraining order against Stormy.

TMZ broke the story – on the police report from the Ohio arrest, Daniels marked "No" when asked if she was married – a clear indication things had gone south with Crain.

It's unclear why Crain filed.

## Products Made In America Will Make America Great Again, Trump Claims

By Washington (DC) Post

[Washington Post](#), July 23, 2018

President Trump touted the economy Monday at a White House event showcasing American-made merchandise, even as some members of the manufacturing industry worried that the president's trade policies threaten recent progress.

At the second annual 'Made in America' event, the president strolled among snowboards from Colorado, cowboy boots made in Texas and campers from Indiana — all required to be "all or virtually all" made in the U.S." Trump toured an RV camper manufactured by Indiana-based Newmar Corporation and looked at Ford's Model T to the F-150, which he said were beautiful.

Trump called present-day America a time of "great economic revival in the United States," crediting the shift in growth to his policies, tax cuts and deregulation.

The Trump administration boasted of creating 8.7 million jobs since the 2016 election. The president also crowed that the country has seen historically low unemployment numbers for African American, Asian and Hispanic communities (there are caveats, as The Post's Philip Bump pointed out in June). Manufacturing jobs are also on the up and up, according to Trump, who said that since his taking office there have been 370,000 manufacturing jobs, which is actually 25,000 more than the figures released by the White House.

National Association of Manufacturers chief economist Chad Moutray agreed, in part.

"Manufacturers are more optimistic than any time in modern history," Moutray said to The Washington Post. "Pro-growth tax and regulatory reform has given manufacturers the confidence to hire more workers, raise wages and increase investments."

The 2018 Second Quarter Manufacturers' Outlook Survey registered positivity at 95.1 percent, the highest it's been in 20 years. Following the regulatory changes, CEOs across the country, including Lockheed Martin, Alabama's Sabel Steel and North Carolina's Atlantic Packaging, planned to reinvest savings, expand facilities and increase employee salaries, according to NAM's Tax Reform Survey. Manufacturing wages, Trump said, are the highest they have been in 17 years.

But, Mautray cautioned, a trade war would set recent progress back.

"To ensure this strong growth continues, the administration needs to pursue a sound trade policy that opens up markets and eliminates barriers, as well as make certain provisions of the new tax law permanent," he said.

Trump blamed past administrations for the loss of manufacturing jobs. "They let our factories leave, they let our people lose their jobs to workers in faraway lands," he said on Monday. "That's not free trade. That's fools' trade."

[Not your father's labor market: Hiring is strong, but workers still aren't seeing big raises]

Despite his rebuke, his daughter, Ivanka Trump outsources all of her company's manufacturing to foreign countries with low-wage labor. The president has similarly been accused of failing to follow the policies he touts, outsourcing labor internationally.

Ivanka Trump is asking companies to sign the White House's "new Pledge to America's Workers—a commitment to invest in the current and future workforce." 100% of Ivanka Trump clothes are made by workers overseas <https://t.co/XAKEIGvm9W> <https://t.co/jtWCT1sunL>— Drew Harwell (@drewharwell) July 18, 2018

To counteract years of what Trump calls unfavorable trade deals, he claimed he's campaigned abroad for free, fair and reciprocal trade and is engaged in ongoing talks with the European Union, with Mexico regarding NAFTA and with China, which had a \$375 billion trade surplus last year, according to Trump. He has also placed steel tariffs on foreign countries.

The Post's Heather Long reported that these efforts have not remedied the problem.

"Trump is now engaged in trade fights with most of the world's major economies, including China, the European Union and Japan. Although Trump speaks periodically with leaders from these nations, formal trade talks have stalled with most of them as the two sides remain far apart and foreign countries say Trump's wishes are unclear."

In recent months, as Trump continued hiking American tariffs, foreign countries have begun responding with retaliatory tactics or threats. Hallmark American brands, like Harley-Davidson and General Motors, have joined the wrangle, too, warning the president of what they stand to lose if he refused to soften his stance. Harley has since decided to transfer some production overseas because of the impact of threatened tariffs.

Still, Trump has not backed away.

"America never waves the white flag, we only wave the red, white and blue flag. The era of economic surrender for the United States is over," said Trump. "America is fighting back and we're winning again."

The room erupted in applause. Trump filed out of the room and the band began a brassy rendition of "God Bless America."

## **Tariffs Trim A Factory's Profit, But Loyalty To Trump Endures**

By Nelson D. Schwartz

[New York Times](#), July 23, 2018

You might think that managers and workers at Banner Metals would be up in arms over the Trump administration's trade policies. After all, tariffs on imported steel and aluminum have pushed raw-material prices up and margins down, forcing the company to delay plans to purchase a new \$1 million cutting machine and hire two new employees to operate it.

But the reaction at the plant is based on more than self-interest. "I'm not looking at what's best for Banner right now," said Bronson Jones, a part-owner of the company and its

chief executive. "I'm looking at what's best for the national economy. The U.S. has been taken advantage of for too long."

That proposition, tracing a volatile political fault line, is frequently encountered on the factory floor here, a few miles from this prosperous city's gleaming downtown.

Casey Jackson, a maintenance technician, said he would support the tariffs even if they cost him personally. "If it comes out of my paycheck, so be it," he said. "You got to look at the big picture. That tiny bit of sacrifice we make will create jobs."

While the manufacturing sector is on the upswing nationally — factories have added 344,000 jobs since the beginning of 2017 — there is an abiding sense of siege among factory workers and executives alike, of having been shortchanged in the trade equation.

Mr. Trump, in departing from the traditional Republican embrace of free trade, struck a chord in 2016, carrying this battleground state by eight percentage points. And the workers on the factory floor underscore his reservoir of blue-collar support — even as he pursues a trade conflict in which key American industrial sectors could be hit. For them, there is still a larger wrong that must be righted.

Divisions on the issue remain stark. In a poll conducted by SurveyMonkey for The New York Times in early July, 76 percent of Republicans supported the metal tariffs, while 79 percent of Democrats opposed them. Nearly half of workers with a high school diploma or some college said they approved of the tariffs, compared with 39 percent of college-educated workers.

As Mr. Jackson, a 34-year-old Air Force veteran, sees it, the current trade war recalls past military conflicts. "We had victory gardens in World War II," he said during a break between shifts, which run from 6 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and then from 4:30 p.m. to 2:30 a.m. "I know the tariffs have an impact on us, but I don't think it was a mistake."

Besides the 20 to 25 percent increase in raw material prices in recent months, Mr. Jones has found himself scrambling to line up shipments of the steel and aluminum that Banner's two-story-tall stamping machines turn into parts for aircraft brakes and seats. Bigger manufacturers have been hoarding metal supplies, he said, ordering larger amounts to get ahead of rising prices and leaving smaller firms like Banner at a disadvantage.

"We were accustomed to four weeks' lead time, but now it can be as long as 16 to 20 weeks," he said. In response, Banner has been flying in steel from an Austrian supplier, an expensive proposition when the price of airfreight and the new tariffs are taken into account.

With about 70 percent of Banner's business coming from the aerospace industry, Mr. Jones can't easily switch metal suppliers. Anything going into an airplane has to be

carefully certified beforehand, restricting Banner's options when raw material is delayed.

"With aerospace, you can't pick up and move it," Mr. Jones said.

Mr. Jones had planned to buy a laser cutting apparatus that would be able to do some production currently outsourced, but pressure on profit margins forced him to postpone the order in May. He even visited the manufacturer while the machine was under construction and had a spot picked out for it at the plant.

"It was like going to see your new car in the showroom," he said. "But with steel prices up, we could see the writing on the wall."

Nevertheless, while Mr. Jones isn't always comfortable with what the president may say or put on Twitter, he likes the overall strategy.

"He's going for the jugular, which is typical Trump style," he said. "I'm not used to it, and it's not a presidential style we are accustomed to. But he's the only president who's taken a significant stance on trade, and we need a brash approach."

The scope of the trade tensions has been widening — 25 percent tariffs on imported steel went into effect this spring, and the White House imposed duties on hundreds of billions of dollars' worth of Chinese imports this month. The Commerce Department has also been examining whether imports of foreign cars pose a national security threat, a prelude to protectionist steps in the auto industry.

The steel tariffs have resulted in the creation of some new jobs. After going cold in 2015, for example, the blast furnaces are restarting at U.S. Steel's plant in Granite City, Ill., in large part because of higher prices for the tubular steel churned out there.

But a vast majority of economists argue that over all, tariffs cost more jobs than they create. And there are many more metal consumers out there, like Banner, than metal producers like U.S. Steel.

Despite the perception of an uneven playing field in trade, Banner has been thriving.

Founded in 1921 as a tool-and-die producer, the company has added eight workers in the last couple of years, bringing its work force to 38. Demand from customers like Boeing, Airbus and United Technologies has been strong.

"We do parts for everything that flies," said Rick Sayre, Banner's vice president for engineering. "It's been a good run."

Even though manufacturing accounts for only 8.5 percent of the nation's work force, compared with 15 percent a quarter-century ago, it continues to offer opportunity at plants like Banner's.

Machine operators earn \$15 to \$20 an hour, and experienced tool-and-die makers can earn twice that. There are also avenues for advancement — Mr. Jones himself started in the shipping department at Banner 24 years ago,

earning \$8 an hour as a quality-assurance inspector. He eventually rose into management and bought the company with two partners in 2013.

"We believe in promoting from within, and we encourage people to go back to college," he said. In some cases, Banner will pay for additional training for employees.

Even as the talk of a trade war has intensified, and new duties go into effect, Mr. Jones said he saw the Trump administration's moves as part of a negotiating strategy, not a fundamental move away from free trade, which he said he supported.

"I don't think hundreds of billions in tariffs are going into effect with other countries, but it sure gets their attention," he said. "I don't think it will all stick, and they'll meet in the middle. It's short-term pain for long-term gain."

The results of the survey for The Times echoed Mr. Jones's analysis. Among Americans who said they approved of the tariffs, a third said they thought Mr. Trump's approach to trade would be "helpful in the long term but harmful in the short term."

Mr. Sayre concurred — with one caveat. "I never cared much for the way Trump does it, but he's doing O.K. as far as I'm concerned," he said. What exactly doesn't he like? "The way he bullies everybody and bends the truth," Mr. Sayre said.

Back on the factory floor, Mr. Jackson said he was comfortable with the president's game plan. "It's aggressive, it's tough, and he won't back down," Mr. Jackson said. "Using trade as a bargaining chip will help someone else put food on the table."

James Ford, another hourly employee, who is a production supervisor, jumped into the conversation. "I like that Trump doesn't sugarcoat anything," he said. "People get offended very easily by somebody being direct."

Other workers, like Todd Grizzle, a 25-year-old maintenance technician, said he could see both sides of the tariff debate. But his memories of the closing of Columbus Casting on the city's South Side are still fresh.

Once the nation's largest foundry, the century-old complex employed 800 people when it filed for bankruptcy in 2016. "There was a flood of people looking for work," Mr. Grizzle said.

The red-brick factory, which looked like something out of Dickens and covers 90 acres, is being demolished. The lesson that Mr. Grizzle said he had learned was that American jobs needed to be protected.

"I like the idea of the U.S. having allies," he said. "But if this can bring more jobs back to America, that's a good thing."

## **Mnuchin Firm On Trump's Tough Trade Approach**

By Frederic Puglie

[Washington Times](#), July 23, 2018

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin doubled down on the Trump administration's tough talk on trade over the weekend even as his international counterparts warned U.S. tariffs could stunt global growth and usher in a new era of job-killing protectionism.

In a *deja vu* of previous summits, Mr. Mnuchin found few allies at the two-day meeting of Group of 20 finance ministers and central bankers, many of whom openly labeled the recent tit-for-tat over tariffs U.S.-wrought "trade wars."

But Mr. Mnuchin declined to soften President Trump's thunder, which on Friday included the threat of an additional \$500 billion in tariffs on Chinese goods, noting he had backed Mr. Trump's hard-line stance from the get-go.

"I worked with him during the campaign, so I'm not new to any of these economic issues; I helped develop these economic issues," Mr. Mnuchin told The Washington Times. "From my first meeting at the G-20 ... I've tried to emphasize that this is about making sure that we have free and fair, two-way trade."

Economic analysts say Mr. Mnuchin did ease some fears sparked by his boss' tweets over the weekend on another front, denying the U.S. government wants a weaker dollar to boost exports and softening Mr. Trump's criticism that China and other major trading partners are manipulating their currencies to help their own exporters.

The U.S. treasury secretary said anyone surprised by Mr. Trump's combative stance hasn't been paying attention.

China, Mr. Mnuchin insisted, is fully aware of U.S. demands to let American companies compete freely and expand U.S. exports to slash the current \$370 billion trade deficit. But with his Chinese counterpart a no-show in Buenos Aires, the showdown quickly shifted to the brewing threat of a second trade war — with Europe.

Still angry over steel and aluminum tariffs and fearing possible duties on their car makers, European officials here toggled between indignation, threats of retaliation and — albeit flimsy — optimism that talks between Mr. Trump and European Union President Jean-Claude Juncker this week may help turn things around.

Mr. Juncker's economics commissioner, Pierre Moscovici, on Sunday tried to walk back comments by French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire, who had warned that Europe would "refuse to negotiate [with Washington] with a gun to the head."

"We are of course ready to respond firmly; it's not a question of a gun, but we are prepared," Mr. Moscovici said. "But we're also there to build bridges, and we hope that this meeting, which is — I can see that — [eagerly] awaited by our American partners, will be the beginning of something."

Between the lines, however, the Europeans gathered here acknowledged that the breakdown of U.S.-China trade



talks did not play in their favor, but Mr. Moscovici warned that the U.S. economy, too, was likely take a big blow in an escalating trade war.

"Protectionism is good for no one, and trade wars are not easy, contrary to what [Mr. Trump] said," he said. "They create no winners, only casualties."

But Mr. Mnuchin, whom many here see as a relatively moderate voice on Mr. Trump's economic policy team, was not backing down here. He insisted that, save for some "micro impacts" on small, specific markets, the U.S. economy has not and will not suffer a major hit if a trade war heats up.

"If you're looking at lobsters in Maine, or you're looking at bourbon in Kentucky, or you're looking at soybeans, there are clearly markets that are being followed," he said. "On a macro basis, we don't see yet any impact on the economy of the tariffs."

And despite Mr. Trump's aggressive move, the pull of the U.S. economy continued to be potent, Mr. Mnuchin observed.

"If requests for meetings is related to popularity," he said in the interview, "I'm pretty popular here."

## **Trump Reviews 'Made In America' Products At The White House**

By Ken Thomas And Paul Wiseman

[Associated Press](#), July 23, 2018

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is surveying an array of "Made in America" products at the White House as he prepares for trade talks with European officials this week.

The event comes as financial markets are closely watching his punishing tariffs on imported goods, which have led to trade disputes with China, Canada and several European allies.

The president walked among a variety of products representing all 50 states, including a Lockheed Martin F-35 aircraft, a Ford F-150 truck and a Ranger boat.

Trump says the U.S. for too long has allowed itself to succumb to bad trade deals. He says, "That's not free trade, that's fool's trade."

The president says the "the era of economic surrender" is over.

Trump is holding trade talks with European Union officials on Wednesday.

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## **Trump: U.S. Ready To 'do Something' About EU Auto Imports**

By Adam Behsudi

[Politico](#), July 23, 2018

President Donald Trump on Monday threatened Europe's car exports ahead of European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker's visit to Washington later this week, saying the European Union has been "very tough" on the U.S.

"They're coming in to see me Wednesday and we'll see if we can work something out," Trump said at a White House event celebrating American-made goods. "Otherwise, we'll have to do something with respect to the millions of cars that they send in every year. Maybe we can work something out."

Trump is weighing a 20 percent tariff on imports of automobiles and auto parts under a law that allows the executive to impose tariffs and other trade restrictions if the Commerce Department determines that imports of certain goods threaten national security.

Trump has consistently targeted the EU for maintaining a 10 percent tariff on imported vehicles while the U.S. has a 2.5 percent tariff on imports of passenger vehicles.

Trump also mentioned Mexico and said he talked with Mexican President-elect Andrés Manuel López Obrador at length over the phone recently, calling him a "terrific person."

"We're talking to them about doing something very dramatic, very positive for both our countries," he said, mentioning trade and NAFTA without bringing up Canada.

Trump has made it clear he wants to work out a deal on NAFTA with Mexico first, and may pursue a renegotiation of the 24-year-old trade agreement separately with both Mexico and Canada — though both governments, and López Obrador, have insisted NAFTA remain a three-way deal.

"We're talking to Mexico on NAFTA, and I think we're going to have something worked out," Trump said.

## **No Deal: EU Resists Trump's Zero-tariff Trade Offer, Prepares New List Of Sanctions To Add Pressure**

By S.A. Miller

[Washington Times](#), July 22, 2018

President Trump offered European nations and other countries a zero-tariff deal as a way out of an escalating trade war, but so far he has no takers despite a zero-tariff agreement signed last week between the European Union and Japan.

With a battle over auto tariffs breaking out between the U.S. and Europe, Mr. Trump's proposal to eliminate all import duties and trade barriers will be on the table again when EU Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker sits down Wednesday at the White House.

"Not going to get ahead of the president's meeting, but this is something the president has said he would like to see," said White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders.

The EU so far would rather fight than deal.

In retaliation against the Trump administration's steel and aluminum tariffs, the EU imposed tariffs on \$3.25 billion of American-made staples including bourbon and motorcycles.

EU Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmstrom, who will accompany Mr. Juncker to Washington this week, said they will bring a new list of U.S. goods targeted for sanctions if Mr. Trump doesn't back down.

"The aim of President Juncker's visit is to try to establish good relations, try to see how we can de-escalate the situation," Ms. Malmstrom told reporters in Brussels. "We don't go there to negotiate anything."

Mr. Trump gets most of the blame — both in the U.S. and abroad — for igniting the trade war in March when he slapped tariffs on steel and aluminum to bolster domestic production of those metals, which have vital military uses.

The trade fight quickly heated up with the Trump administration hitting \$34 billion worth of Chinese goods with tariffs and Beijing responding in kind. The threat of tit-for-tat tariffs with the EU is the next flashpoint.

After winning the White House with a get-tough trade agenda, Mr. Trump insists that he is doing what he promised: standing up for American workers.

The president argues that American workers and business suffered for decades because of lopsided trade deals in which the U.S. levies low tariffs while major trading partners such as the EU hammer U.S. goods with steep import duties and other trade barriers.

The EU imposes a 10 percent tariff on passenger cars, compared with the 2.5 percent U.S. duty on European autos.

A study by the CESifo Institute in Germany found unweighted average EU tariffs of 5.2 percent, compared with the U.S. rate of 3.5 percent.

"The EU is by no means the paradise for free traders that it likes to think," Gabriel Felbermayr, director of the think tank's Center for International Economics, told the German business newspaper Handelsblatt.

Sometimes the tariffs are unbalanced in the opposite direction. The U.S. has a higher, 25 percent duty on imported pickup trucks and sport utility vehicles, while the EU charges the same 10 percent tariff on most vehicles. For commercial trucks, the U.S. levies a 25 percent tariff and the EU 22 percent.

At last month's meeting of the Group of Seven leading industrial nations, Mr. Trump floated the idea of zero tariffs to leaders of Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy and Japan.

"Ultimately that's what you want. You want tariff-free, no barriers, and you want no subsidies because you have some countries subsidizing industries, and that's not fair," he told them. "So you go tariff-free, you go barrier-free, you go

subsidy-free. That's the way you learned at the Wharton School of Finance."

Last week, the EU and Japan signed a sweeping trade deal that will eliminate nearly all tariffs when they trade. They said it sent a clear message against protectionism — an apparent dig at Mr. Trump.

Neither the EU nor Japan has publicly entertained Mr. Trump's zero-tariff proposal.

The Trans-Pacific Partnership deal eventually would have reduced tariffs to zero for the 12 countries involved, including the U.S. and Japan. Pulling out of the deal was one of Mr. Trump's first acts as president. He said the multination agreement would have increased U.S. trade deficits and shipped American jobs overseas.

The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership deal between the U.S. and the EU would have cut most tariffs to zero. But negotiations were suspended indefinitely in 2016 amid opposition on both sides of the Atlantic, but with the fiercest resistance from Europeans.

Moves to rekindle the talks after Mr. Trump took office in 2017 have been overshadowed by the tariff wars.

Edward Alden, a senior fellow specializing in U.S. economic competitiveness and trade at the Council on Foreign Relations, said it was easier for the EU and Japan to strike a zero-tariff deal than to do the same with the U.S.

Beyond tariffs, the Europeans don't see eye to eye with the U.S. on environmental and agriculture issues that frustrate trade agreements.

"We bathe our chickens in a light chlorine solution, and we like hormones in our beef, and we use genetically modified crops in ways that they don't do," said Mr. Alden. "Japan doesn't raise the same set of issues because Japan is not trying to force Europeans to recognize Japanese regulatory standards. They are happy to live with the European regulatory standard."

He agreed with Mr. Trump that most trade deals — including the North Atlantic Free Trade Agreement and China's membership in the World Trade Organization — backfired on the U.S. and caused jobs to be shipped abroad and higher trade deficits. But he also questioned Mr. Trump's sincerity in proposing zero-tariff deals.

"I think what the president really wants is unilateral concessions from the Europeans. He wants to get rid of their 10 percent car tariff, for example, without the U.S. having to respond in kind," Mr. Alden said. "But the truth is I don't know. Nobody really knows."

## **EU Counts On Top Official To Try To Calm U.S. Trade Fight**

By Valentina Pop

[Wall Street Journal](#), July 23, 2018

Full-text stories from the Wall Street Journal are available to Journal subscribers by clicking the link.

## **Mexico Pushes For Nafta Deal With Trump By End Of August**

By Eric Martin

[Bloomberg News](#), July 23, 2018

Mexico is redoubling its efforts to reach a Nafta agreement with the U.S. and Canada by the end of August to increase certainty for investors and take the heat off incoming President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, according to three people familiar with the negotiations.

A deal next month would allow Lopez Obrador to focus on domestic priorities when he takes office Dec. 1, while shielding him from any potential criticism involving the outcome of the negotiations, according to the people, who asked not to be named discussing private talks. Republicans in November's midterms could also tout the deal as proof that U.S. President Donald Trump made good on his 2016 presidential campaign pledge to fix or abandon Nafta.

High-level Nafta negotiations are set to resume this week after a two-month hiatus for Mexico's July 1 presidential elections. While the nations had said progress was made earlier this year, the pact's future hangs in doubt. Trump last week repeated his threat to pursue individual deals with Mexico and Canada, and the three nations still remain far apart on major points almost a year after the negotiations first began.

An agreement depends on U.S. willingness to back off proposals that are opposed by Mexico, Canada and American business groups, such as an automatic expiration of the deal after five years and the end of dispute resolution panels, according to the people. U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer hasn't shown an openness to do that, the people said.

Canadian Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland is scheduled to travel to Mexico City on Wednesday to meet with officials from the current and incoming Mexican administrations, including Lopez Obrador. Mexican Economy Minister Ildefonso Guajardo said last week that he and his team plan to travel to Washington on Thursday to meet with Lighthizer.

Lighthizer's office and the Canadian foreign ministry didn't immediately respond to requests for comment. Mexico's economy ministry declined to immediately comment.

The peso pared some of its losses Monday following news of Mexico's push to make a deal, and was down 0.3 percent to 19.0745 per dollar as of 11:59 a.m. New York time.

The Mexican foreign ministry on Saturday said that Jesus Seade, named by Lopez Obrador as his chief Nafta negotiator, will join the team on its trip to Washington. Seade

said in an interview last month that he sees a deal as possible before the U.S. congressional election, and that the incoming president's team fundamentally agrees with the nation's current negotiating positions.

Guajardo last week alluded to the possibility of an August deal. In an interview with Radio Formula, he said that in closed-door meetings with the current and incoming governments earlier this month, U.S. officials including Secretary of State Mike Pompeo indicated a desire to have a deal in 45 days.

Mexico is moving ahead in its efforts to integrate with the economies of South America and make itself less dependent on the U.S., which bought 72 percent of the nation's exports last year, according to data from the International Monetary Fund.

Pena Nieto on Monday and Tuesday is hosting leaders including Brazil's Michel Temer and Argentina officials for a summit focused on bridging the gaps between Latin America's two major trade blocs: Mercosur, spearheaded by Brazil and Argentina, and the Pacific Alliance, which includes Mexico, Colombia, Peru and Chile.

While Trump said last week he may prioritize a bilateral trade talks with Mexico over Canada, both the current and incoming Mexican administrations have expressed a preference to preserve a three-nation free-trade agreement.

## **Mexico Sees Scope For Progress In Stalled NAFTA Talks This Week**

By Anthony Esposito, Adriana Barrera

[Reuters](#), July 23, 2018

Full-text stories from Reuters currently cannot be included in this document. You may, however, click the link above to access the story.

## **U.S. Government Bonds Slide Amid Concerns Of Falling Demand From Abroad**

**The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note rose to 2.963%**

By Daniel Kruger

[Wall Street Journal](#), July 23, 2018

Full-text stories from the Wall Street Journal are available to Journal subscribers by clicking the link.

## **Zero Tariffs? There's A Precedent**

**If Trump is serious about free and fair trade, he should follow the example of Caterpillar in 1988.**

By Bill Lane

[Wall Street Journal](#), July 23, 2018

Full-text stories from the Wall Street Journal are available to Journal subscribers by clicking the link.

## **Trump's Tariffs Threaten The Texas Oil Boom**

By Ed Longanecker

[Dallas Morning News](#), July 23, 2018

The oil and gas industry remains one of the most resilient and impactful sectors in the country, despite efforts by some to derail domestic production based on an ideology, not science, and certain ill-conceived policies carrying unintended consequences.

Though operators have welcomed a reprieve from overly burdensome federal regulations targeting the oil and gas industry under President Donald Trump, newly implemented tariffs on steel and aluminum products by the Trump administration already are having a negative impact on infrastructure development and drilling projects throughout the country.

Not yet feeling the full effect of the newly implemented tariffs, the Texas oil and natural gas industry has continued to expand in 2018. More than 6,060 net new jobs were added to the state economy in the first half of year compared to 2017, for a total of 331,877 workers directly employed by the industry. (This data is subject to revisions.)

These positions command an average salary of \$128,000 per year, 132 percent more than average private-sector wages in Texas, for a total payroll of \$42 billion in the state.

WeWork's ban on meat is about tribalism

Texas continues to lead the nation in oil and natural gas production. Crude oil output in the state equaled an estimated 712 million barrels of production through June of 2018, representing an increase of 112 million barrels compared to the first half of 2017. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, Texas set a new record for daily oil production this year, officially exceeding 4 million barrels per day.

The agency also forecasts that shale oil from the Permian Basin in Texas alone will account for 50 percent of all new global oil production over the next five years. Natural gas production also increased by 16 million cubic feet of gas in the first half of 2018 compared to the same timeframe in 2017.

With help from rising oil prices and production, Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar recently enlarged the state's revenue estimate by \$2.8 billion, projecting a revised budget of \$110 billion for lawmakers to spend on the two-year budget. Hegar predicted lawmakers will also have nearly \$12 billion at their disposal next year in the state's Economic Stabilization Fund — better known as the rainy day fund — a pot of money funded almost entirely by oil and gas severance taxes and available for budget emergencies. According the comptroller, this threshold represents the largest "ending balance" in the fund's history, again thanks to oil and gas.

The economic impact of the steel and aluminum tariffs will be significant for the Texas oil and gas industry and the U.S. economy as a whole if left in place. The positive

economic contributions are in jeopardy, hence the recent call for an expedited resolution from Texas Gov. Greg Abbott.

While well-intended, the tariffs ultimately will result in a slowdown in exploration, production activity and infrastructure projects; job loss; and decreased tax revenue. This will reverberate throughout the state and national economy. The Texas oil and gas sector once again joins Abbott in calling for the removal of tariffs on steel and aluminum for the benefit of our state and industry.

## **Trump Advisers Quietly Begin Thinking About 'Life After Sarah'**

**The press secretary says she has no plans to step down, but a shortlist of potential replacements is starting to take shape.**

By Andrew Restuccia And Nancy Cook

[Politico](#), July 23, 2018

White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders says publicly that she has no plans to leave the administration, but that hasn't stopped some people close to President Donald Trump from contemplating "life after Sarah."

Planning for her eventual exit is on the minds of many Trump advisers and staff members, according to interviews with nearly a dozen current and former administration officials and others close to the president.

Bill Shine, the newly appointed White House deputy chief of staff for communications, has quietly begun asking friends and associates for their opinions about who could succeed Sanders if she leaves in the coming months, according to two people familiar with those conversations.

Shine, in a brief interview, denied having such conversations. "I have not had a meeting or discussion about this," he said last week, noting he had been on the job for only a short time. Shine praised Sanders and called her a "total team player."

Although no decisions have been made about successors, an unofficial shortlist is already emerging among Trump White House alumni, former campaign aides and other backers of the president.

At the top of the list is Heather Nauert, the current State Department spokeswoman and former Fox News host. Nauert has impressed White House aides with her steady performances in Foggy Bottom. Multiple people close to the White House pointed out that Nauert remained in Trump's good graces even when the president soured on former Secretary of State Rex Tillerson.

Nauert's Fox News pedigree, paired with her close relationship with Trump and her ability to stay on message and remain calm under pressure, makes her a "no-brainer" for the job, according to one person close to the White House. Nauert, who did not respond to a request for comment, has told associates that she's unsure whether she



would want the job, but people who know her believe she'd take it if asked.

Other possibilities include Bill Hemmer, a Fox News reporter; Kimberly Guilfoyle, a former Fox News host who recently left the network to join a pro-Trump outside group; Treasury Department spokesman Tony Sayegh, who worked closely with the White House on its overhaul of the tax code and used to be a Fox News contributor; and White House deputy press secretary Raj Shah.

Guilfoyle is dating Trump's son Donald Trump Jr., a fact that could complicate her appointment as press secretary, and several associates of the president said she is unlikely to get the job.

"There will be people who will want the job," said former George W. Bush chief of staff Andrew Card. "The best way to get the job is not to apply."

The prospect of losing Sanders, who is widely liked in the White House and is seen by her colleagues as a deft communicator and defender of the president, has some close to Trump in panic mode, worrying that it'll be difficult to find a suitable replacement who can stand up to withering scrutiny from the public.

"Who would want that job?" one former administration official asked, summing up the feelings of many in Washington, who note that being the public face of Trump's presidency can be a thankless and frequently impossible task.

At the White House Correspondents' Association Dinner in April, the featured comedian singled out Sanders — who was sitting on the stage — as someone who "burns facts," and more recently, she and her family were asked to leave a Virginia restaurant because the staff disagreed so strongly with Trump's policies.

CBS News reported last month that Sanders, one of the few top officials who started with Trump in January 2017 and still remains in the West Wing, had told friends she expects to leave by the end of the year after serving as a top official since the start of the administration. Sanders, for her part, pushed back strongly on that report and has subsequently told colleagues that she has no current plans to resign. Sanders' colleagues don't believe she will step down anytime soon, and they insist that if she does, it'll likely be after the midterms and on her own terms, not in response to a specific event.

Sanders declined to comment on the record for this story.

White House aides and Republicans close to the White House insist Shine does not want to push out Sanders, who has become a trusted ally of Trump's in recent months — but pointed out that it's good practice to start winnowing down a shortlist early.

"I'm proud that they are thinking about this early on and not getting jammed at the end," said one veteran GOP communications strategist.

The topic of Sanders' future is deeply sensitive in the West Wing, where aides don't want to risk tainting their relationship with the press secretary by openly discussing her potential replacements.

The transition to a new press secretary is seen as the first major test of Shine's tenure at the White House. One Republican who has spoken to multiple people in the White House said Shine wants to be prepared to have an orderly changeover.

Shine and others in the White House want a press secretary in the mold of the late Tony Snow, a former Fox News host who served as President George W. Bush's lead spokesman, the Republican said. As a former journalist, Snow had the respect of many in the briefing room but still had the ability to aggressively counter reporters.

Others close to the process said they believe Shine will draw on his Fox News Rolodex when looking for candidates, adding that the White House wants someone who understands the mechanics of dealing with the press, has some degree of experience and credibility, has a good relationship with Trump and looks the part.

Trump himself, who frequently critiques his own press team and sees himself as a master communicator, is expected to play a central role in picking the next press secretary.

In the aftermath of the departure of White House communications director Hope Hicks, who left a gaping hole at the top of Trump's team when she stepped down earlier this year, some in the West Wing have come to believe that they have to be prepared for the eventual departure of Sanders, who has emerged as one of the administration's most high-profile public faces, according to another Republican close to the White House.

"Bill is looking for someone to push back aggressively without looking like Sean," the Republican said, referring to former Trump White House press secretary Sean Spicer, who lacked credibility with reporters.

## **Trump Advisers Laying Groundwork For Sarah Sanders' Exit: Report**

By Diana Stancy Correll

[Washington Examiner](#), July 23, 2018

President Trump's advisers are bracing themselves for the departure of White House press secretary Sarah Sanders, a new report says.

Staffers are laying the groundwork for Sanders' exodus and have already started composing an unofficial list of potential replacements, multiple current and former administration officials and those close to Trump told Politico.

White House deputy chief of staff for communications Bill Shine has discreetly begun seeking suggestions from friends about who could replace Sanders in the near future, two sources told the outlet.

However, Shine pushed back on those comments.

"I have not had a meeting or discussion about this," Shine said, per Politico.

Potential candidates to replace Sanders include Heather Nauert, State Department spokesperson, Fox News reporter Bill Hemmer, and Kimberly Guilfoyle, former Fox News host who is reportedly planning to join America First Policies, a nonprofit that advances Trump's policy agenda.

The White House did not immediately respond to a request for comment from the Washington Examiner.

In June, CBS published a report that claimed Sanders had informed those close to her she would leave her White House post at the end of 2018. But Sanders cast doubt on the accuracy of the report shortly thereafter.

"Does @CBSNews know something I don't about my plans and my future? I was at my daughter's year-end Kindergarten event and they ran a story about my 'plans to leave the WH' without even talking to me. I love my job and am honored to work for @POTUS," Sanders tweeted.

The report comes as other high-profile White House staffers have left their posts this year, including former White House communications director Hope Hicks, Jared Kushner's top communications aide Josh Raffel, National Security Council spokesman Michael Anton, and others.

## **Senate Confirms Pentagon Official Robert Wilkie To Lead VA**

By Washington (DC) Post

[Washington Post](#), July 23, 2018

The Senate easily confirmed Robert Wilkie on Monday as the 10th secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, elevating the top Pentagon official and Washington insider to lead an agency that serves a key constituency for President Trump but has floundered amid political infighting.

The 86-to-9 bipartisan vote, with Democrats casting nearly all of the no votes, was without the drama of other Cabinet confirmations during the Trump administration. Wilkie convinced many Democrats that he would not privatize the agency, but he is the first VA secretary to fail to receive unanimous Senate confirmation, a reflection of the political tensions in what has long been a bipartisan corner of the federal government.

Several of the no votes, including Sens. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), Cory Booker (D-N.J.), Kamala D. Harris (D-Calif.) and Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.), are potential candidates for president in 2020 who have opposed other Trump Cabinet nominees.

The president, in a statement issued by the White House, said Wilkie has "dedicated his life to serving his country with honor and pride. He has displayed great patriotism and a commitment to supporting and empowering America's armed forces and veterans. Under his leadership, I have no doubt that the Department of Veterans Affairs will continue to make strides in honoring and protecting the heroic men and women who have served our Nation with distinction."

Wilkie's confirmation had been all but assured since his May nomination to succeed David Shulkin, a hospital executive and holdover from the Obama administration who clashed with the White House and the team of political appointees at VA. Trump had initially chosen White House physician Ronny L. Jackson for the job, but that candidacy imploded in a torrent of misconduct allegations.

Wilkie, 55, now head of military personnel at the Defense Department, was welcomed on Capitol Hill as an experienced official who could address the agency's many challenges.

"Robert Wilkie is the real deal," Sen. Johnny Isakson (R-Ga.), chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, said on the Senate floor before the vote. "I told him, 'You have no excuses.' We're here to make sure VA has no excuses, only results."

Isakson had told Wilkie at his confirmation hearing this month that poor morale was the biggest challenge he would face leading the government's second-largest agency, with 360,000 employees.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) moved quickly to get Wilkie in place after a report in The Washington Post last week on a politically motivated purge of employees by VA's interim leadership. After revelations that acting secretary Peter O'Rourke has taken aggressive steps to sideline or reassign employees who are perceived to be disloyal, Isakson called for a confirmation vote "without delay."

"Today, unlike never before, we've got political forces at work inside VA," Sen. Jon Tester (Mont.), the committee's top Democrat, said before the vote, describing an agency he said has lost sight of its mission to serve veterans.

"Good employees are being forced out not because of the job they're doing but because of their views," Tester said. "Veterans need a leader who will build bridges, not tear down the department to meet a political agenda."

Wilkie, an Air Force reservist and the son of an Army artillery commander who was severely wounded in Vietnam, is now in charge of military personnel policy for the Trump administration. He has spent three decades working in Washington on military and national security issues, developing deep connections on Capitol Hill and in the White House. He has worked for some of the most polarizing political figures in Washington, including the late senator

Jesse Helms (R-N.C.), but his past embrace of some divisive cultural views did not deter his path to confirmation.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.), who is in a tough reelection fight, said in a statement that she could not support Wilkie's nomination because his long career defending "many controversial policies and elected officials" — including his defense of the Confederate flag — precluded him from serving all veterans.

Wilkie spent eight weeks as acting VA secretary, then returned to the Pentagon to await confirmation.

The White House has advocated for an expansion of private-sector options for veterans, a policy the administration came to think Shulkin was not pushing hard enough. Wilkie has said he would carry out a similar mandate of newly passed legislation — but said private care would not replace VA, a long-standing fear among Democrats and some veterans' service organizations.

VA has been without a permanent leader for four months just as it began implementing multiple new laws and projects. A contract for a multibillion-dollar electronic health records system to replace one built in-house decades ago was just signed. So was the massive "Mission Act," which expands veteran access to private doctors at taxpayer expense, a victory for the president that helps cement one of his biggest campaign promises.

Other challenges include suicide prevention, cutting the backlog of benefits claims, changing the post-9/11 GI Bill and filling thousands of vacancies for medical professionals.

The agenda comes amid a string of departures of senior leaders over the past six months as an interim leadership team of political appointees consolidated power and helped oust Shulkin.

Wilkie will face heightened tensions between these appointees and civil servants throughout the agency's Washington headquarters.

A law Congress passed a year ago to make it easier for the agency to fire employees for poor performance has unleashed widespread concern that whistleblowers are being targeted.

According to data compiled by the nonpartisan Partnership for Public Service, more than 26,000 full-time employees left VA last year, with most quitting and retiring.

"The first thing VA needs right now is employee confidence in their senior leadership," said Joe Davis, communications director for the Veterans of Foreign Wars, whose annual convention in Kansas City, Mo., Trump is scheduled to address Tuesday.

"There's a morale problem," Davis said. "There's nobody captaining the ship. VA is often a headline away from a nationwide crisis."

Supporters of the team in place, however, argue that the high staff turnover is benefiting the agency because

employees who did not support Trump's policies for veterans are gone.

"I don't think many of [those who've left] were aligned with the president's vision for VA," said Dan Caldwell, executive director of Concerned Veterans for America, a group backed by conservative billionaire industrialists Charles and David Koch that is allied with the Trump administration.

"The administration has approached fixing the VA much differently than the Obama administration," Caldwell said. "Robert Wilkie is going to have to focus a lot on change management."

## **Senate Confirms Robert Wilkie As Veterans Affairs Secretary**

By Sarah Mervosh

[New York Times](#), July 23, 2018

The United States Senate on Monday overwhelmingly voted to approve President Trump's latest pick to lead the Department of Veterans Affairs, confirming Robert Wilkie as the next secretary 86 to 9.

Mr. Wilkie, 55, will lead the second-largest department in the federal government, overseeing about 360,000 employees and the vast veterans health care system.

He is taking over a department in turmoil. Veterans Affairs, which has struggled for years to provide timely and efficient care, has been without permanent leadership since the previous secretary, David J. Shulkin, was fired in March. The department is also dealing with thousands of job vacancies and staff turnover at the highest levels.

Mr. Wilkie will be responsible for stabilizing the department and revamping the veterans health care system to make it easier for veterans to take their benefits to private doctors.

Mr. Wilkie is a career Washington insider who has worked for Senators Jesse Helms, Trent Lott and Thom Tillis, and was an assistant defense secretary under George W. Bush.

He has served as acting secretary of Veterans Affairs, and as under secretary of defense for personnel and readiness, where he handled the health and welfare of all military personnel.

The son of a highly decorated artillery officer, Mr. Wilkie grew up on Army bases and has joked that he was born in khaki diapers. After law school, he served in the Navy and Air Force Reserves.

He was nominated to become secretary after Mr. Trump's first choice fell through. The president originally nominated the White House physician, Dr. Ronny L. Jackson, who withdrew from consideration in April after disparaging reports about him circulated before his scheduled confirmation hearing.

Mr. Trump announced his intention to nominate Mr. Wilkie in May, surprising even Mr. Wilkie himself, who had not been told of the decision before the president slipped the news into remarks he made ahead of a meeting on prison reform.

Mr. Wilkie, who was sitting in the front row at the event, stood up and shook Mr. Trump's hand after hearing the news.

He was a largely uncontested choice, receiving backing from both parties.

In a statement on Monday, Mr. Trump praised Mr. Wilkie for his patriotism and commitment to serving veterans.

"Under his leadership, I have no doubt that the Department of Veterans Affairs will continue to make strides in honoring and protecting the heroic men and women who have served our Nation with distinction," he said.

Senator Johnny Isakson, a Georgia Republican who is the chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, said in a statement on Monday: "The Department of Veterans Affairs needs a leader who will help move the V.A., away from problems of the past and toward solutions of the future."

Senator Jon Tester, Democrat of Montana who also serves on the committee, said that confirming Mr. Wilkie was the right choice for veterans.

But, in a statement, he said: "Our job doesn't stop today. The Senate must always hold Mr. Wilkie accountable to the millions of American veterans he serves."

Thomas Kaplan, Eileen Sullivan and Dave Philipps contributed reporting.

## White House Blames Iran For War Of Words With Trump

By Nasser Karimi, Zeke Miller, And Will Lester

[Associated Press](#), July 23, 2018

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House on Monday blamed Iranian President Hassan Rouhani for inciting a war of words with President Donald Trump, who warned that verbal threats could escalate into military conflict with the U.S.

Trump, who campaigned on a promise to bring a more hawkish approach to Iran, sent an all-caps tweet late Sunday warning of dire consequences for the longtime foe. "NEVER EVER THREATEN THE UNITED STATES AGAIN OR YOU WILL SUFFER CONSEQUENCES THE LIKE OF WHICH FEW THROUGHOUT HISTORY HAVE EVER SUFFERED BEFORE," he wrote.

Trump was responding to Rouhani, who had remarked earlier in the day that "America must understand well that peace with Iran is the mother of all peace and war with Iran is the mother of all wars."

Within hours, Iran's state-owned news agency IRNA dismissed the tweet, describing it as a "passive reaction" to Rouhani's remarks.

On Monday, the White House said Trump's tweet shows he is not going to tolerate critical rhetoric from Iran and insisted the U.S. leader isn't escalating tensions between the two countries.

"If anybody's inciting anything, look no further than to Iran," press secretary Sarah Sanders said and added that Trump has been "very clear about what he's not going to allow to take place."

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Sunday called the religious leaders of Iran "hypocritical holy men" who amassed vast sums of wealth while allowing their people to suffer. Pompeo also castigated Iran's political, judicial and military leaders. (July 22)

White House press secretary Sarah Sanders declines to say whether Trump had consulted with national security aides, but said "The president consults with his national security team on a daily basis."

Trump's national security adviser, John Bolton, echoed Trump's rhetoric in a statement Monday saying he's spoken with Trump over the last several days and, "President Trump told me that if Iran does anything at all to the negative, they will pay a price like few countries have ever paid before."

In Tehran, a headline on a local newspaper quoted Rouhani as saying: "Mr. Trump, do not play with the lion's tail."

Prominent Iranian analyst Seed Leilaz downplayed the war of words, saying he thinks it was "the storm before the calm."

Leilaz told The Associated Press he was not "worried about the remarks and tweets," and that "neither Iran, nor any other country is interested in escalating tensions in the region."

Citing harsh words the United States and North Korea had exchanged before the high-profile summit between Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, Leilaz said Trump and Kim got "closer" despite the warring words.

Trump's eruption on Twitter came after a week of heavy controversy about Russian meddling in the U.S. 2016 election, following the Helsinki summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

To Iranian President Rouhani: NEVER, EVER THREATEN THE UNITED STATES AGAIN OR YOU WILL SUFFER CONSEQUENCES THE LIKES OF WHICH FEW THROUGHOUT HISTORY HAVE EVER SUFFERED BEFORE. WE ARE NO LONGER A COUNTRY THAT WILL STAND FOR YOUR DEMENTED WORDS OF VIOLENCE & DEATH. BE CAUTIOUS!— Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) July 23, 2018

The tweet was reverberating across the Mideast. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu praised the U.S. president's "strong stance" after years in which the Iranian "regime was pampered by world powers."



Trump earlier this year pulled the U.S. out of the international deal meant to prevent Tehran from developing a nuclear weapon and ordered increased American sanctions, as well as threatening penalties for companies from other countries that continue to do business with Iran.

With the economic pressure, Trump said earlier this month that “at a certain point they’re going to call me and say ‘let’s make a deal,’ and we’ll make a deal.”

Iran has rejected talks with the U.S., and Rouhani has accused the U.S. of stoking an “economic war.”

Rouhani also suggested Iran could immediately ramp up its production of uranium in response to U.S. pressure. Potentially that would escalate the very situation the nuclear deal sought to avoid — an Iran with a stockpile of enriched uranium that could lead to making atomic bombs.

Trump’s tweet suggested he has little patience with the trading of hostile messages with Iran, using exceptionally strong language and writing the all-capitalized tweet.

“WE ARE NO LONGER A COUNTRY THAT WILL STAND FOR YOUR DEMENTED WORDS OF VIOLENCE & DEATH. BE CAUTIOUS!” he wrote.

Trump has a history of firing off heated tweets that seem to quickly escalate long-standing disputes with leaders of nations at odds with the U.S.

In the case of North Korea, the public war of words cooled quickly and gradually led to the high profile summit and denuclearization talks. There has been little tangible progress in a global push to rid North Korea of its nuclear weapons program since the historic Trump-Kim summit on June 12.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo flew to Pyongyang for follow-up talks earlier this month, but the two sides showed conflicting accounts of the talks. North’s Foreign Ministry accused the United States of making “gangster-like” demands for its unilateral disarmament.

AP Photo/Mark J. Terrill

Some experts say Kim is using diplomacy as a way to win outside concessions and weaken U.S.-led international sanctions.

Many in Iran have expressed frustration that Trump has seemed willing to engage with North Korea, which has openly boasted of producing nuclear weapons, but not Iran, which signed the landmark 2015 nuclear deal with world powers.

Since Trump pulled out of the deal, other nations involved — Germany, Britain, France, Russia and China as well as the European Union — have reaffirmed their support for the deal and have been working to try and keep Iran on board.

“Iran is angry since Trump responded to Tehran’s engagement diplomacy by pulling the U.S. out of the nuclear deal,” Iranian lawmaker Heshmatollah Falahatpisheh told the AP.

He added, however, the war of words between the two presidents was to be expected, since official diplomatic relations between the two countries have been frozen for decades.

“They express themselves through speeches since diplomatic channels are closed,” said Falahatpisheh who heads the influential parliamentary committee on national security and foreign policy.

On Sunday in California, Pompeo was strongly critical of Iran, calling its religious leaders “hypocritical holy men” who amassed vast sums of wealth while allowing their people to suffer.

In the speech at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum, Pompeo castigated Iran’s political, judicial and military leaders, accusing several by name of participating in widespread corruption. He also said the government has “heartlessly repressed its own people’s human rights, dignity and fundamental freedoms.”

He said despite poor treatment by their leaders, “the proud Iranian people are not staying silent about their government’s many abuses,” Pompeo said.

“And the United States under President Trump will not stay silent either.”

Karimi reported from Tehran, Iran. Associated Press writers Zeke Miller at the White House, David Rising in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Amir Vahdat in Tehran, Iran, Aron Heller in Jerusalem and Hyung-jin Kim in Seoul, South Korea, contributed to this report.

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## **U.S.-Iran Tensions Simmer As Trump And Rouhani Trade Threats**

By Nick Wadhams

[Bloomberg News](#), July 22, 2018

U.S. President Donald Trump launched a new broadside against Iran, warning of unspecified “consequences” if Hassan Rouhani continues threatening America.

In a Twitter post late Sunday, Trump said, “To Iranian President Rouhani: NEVER, EVER THREATEN THE UNITED STATES AGAIN OR YOU WILL SUFFER CONSEQUENCES THE LIKES OF WHICH FEW THROUGHOUT HISTORY HAVE EVER SUFFERED BEFORE. WE ARE NO LONGER A COUNTRY THAT WILL STAND FOR YOUR DEMENTED WORDS OF VIOLENCE & DEATH. BE CAUTIOUS!”

The threat – similar to ones Trump issued last year in warning North Korea about its rapidly improving nuclear weapons program – risks leading to a speedy escalation if

neither side backs down. Oil rose as tensions over Iran countered growing concerns that trade protectionism would hit economic growth. Brent oil – the global benchmark – was trading up 1.12 percent at \$73.89 a barrel as of 1:37 p.m. in London.

National Security Adviser John Bolton echoed Trump's message in a statement Monday morning but cast the threat as directed against actions that might be taken by the Iranian regime rather than rhetoric.

"I spoke to the President over the last several days, and President Trump told me that if Iran does anything at all to the negative, they will pay a price like few countries have ever paid before," Bolton said in a statement released by the White House.

White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders declined to "broadcast" what actions Trump would be willing to take against Iran or what threat would prompt a response. "He's monitoring and watching the actions of Iran. If needed, he will take what steps are necessary to protect people in this country and certainly to protect the world from nuclear proliferation," Sanders told Fox News in an interview.

Trump's tweet came hours after Rouhani warned the U.S. against threatening Iranian oil exports and called for improved relations with neighbors, including rival Saudi Arabia.

"We're not fighting or at war with any country, but the enemies have to clearly understand that war with Iran will be the mother of all wars and likewise peace with Iran is the mother of all peace," Rouhani said.

The head of Iran's paramilitary Basij forces dismissed Trump's words as part of a psychological war. The U.S. "wouldn't dare make the mistake of taking action against Iran," Gholamhossein Gheybparvar was quoted as saying by the semi-official Iranian Students' News Agency.

The tensions come as the U.S. moves closer to imposing sanctions on countries – including key allies – that don't eliminate or significantly cut imports of Iranian oil by Nov. 4. That effort follows the Trump administration's decision this year to withdraw from the Iran nuclear accord, which eased economic sanctions on the Islamic Republic in return for restraints on its nuclear program.

#### 'Hypocritical Holy Men'

Earlier this month, the other participants in the nuclear deal met in Vienna to look for ways to ensure Iran still gets the benefits it's seeking from the accord despite the U.S. threats. Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif called for "practical solutions" rather than "obscure promises." But world powers were unable to offer concrete proposals, and diplomats have warned there may be little they can do.

The back and forth between Trump and Rouhani also came as U.S. Secretary of State Michael Pompeo delivered a speech in California on Sunday, in which he accused the country's leaders of corruption and urged European allies to

join the pressure campaign against the Islamic Republic. Pompeo said Iran's leadership is made up of "hypocritical holy men" responsible for "crooked schemes" that have hurt the country's economy and people.

The top U.S. diplomat added that America stands in solidarity with Iranians and reiterated the November deadline for countries to get their imports of Iranian oil to "as close to zero as possible." While the administration has said it doesn't seek regime change, it has repeatedly said that Iran's leaders don't have their citizens' interests at heart.

#### 'Fake News'

"While it is ultimately up to the Iranian people to determine the direction of their country, the United States, in the spirit of our own freedoms, will support the long-ignored voice of the Iranian people," Pompeo said in the speech in Simi Valley, California. The audience included Iranian-Americans, Arkansas Republican Senator Tom Cotton – a leading Iran critic in Congress – and former California Governor Pete Wilson.

Saying that one in four Iranians listen to or watch U.S. government broadcasts, Pompeo announced that the organization overseeing the Voice of America is launching new Farsi-language channels across television, radio and the internet. It was the only new policy initiative Pompeo unveiled.

"For 40 years the Iranian people have heard from their leaders that America is the Great Satan," Pompeo said. "We do not believe they are interested in hearing the fake news any longer."

Citing his own travels to North Korea as an example, Pompeo said it's still possible for the Trump administration to build a relationship with Tehran, but he didn't seem optimistic that such an outcome was likely. He said Iran must make a series of changes to become a "normal" country. "That I don't see happening today, but I live in hope," he said.

#### Reagan Speech

Pompeo sought to portray his message Sunday in terms of good-versus-evil, as a major moment in history. He cited President Ronald Reagan's 1982 Westminster Speech in which he challenged the Soviet Union and warned that its ideology would be left on the "ash heap of history."

The administration believes that a new maximum-pressure campaign will work with Iran just as Trump and other senior officials believe that the sanctions regime against North Korea drove that country's leaders to the negotiating table.

A big difference between the two countries is Iran's oil. It exports hydrocarbons to countries around the world, including China and India, as well as U.S. allies Japan, South Korea and Iraq.

The administration will have to decide how hard to enforce its sanctions. Pompeo and U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin have told European leaders they won't get

waivers. But other countries, such as Iraq, are major importers of Iranian natural gas, and sanctions could strain alliances the U.S. seeks to maintain.

## **U.S. Toughens Rhetoric On Iran Following Trump's Tweet**

By Jessica Donati And Nancy A. Youssef

[Wall Street Journal](#), July 23, 2018

Full-text stories from the Wall Street Journal are available to Journal subscribers by clicking the link.

## **John Bolton Doubles Down On Trump's Iran Tweet**

By Axios

[Axios](#), July 23, 2018

John Bolton doubles down on Trump's Iran tweet

President Trump's national security adviser John Bolton issued a statement to reporters reiterating the president's fury at Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, which was expressed in a late Sunday night tweet.

"I spoke to the President over the last several days, and President Trump told me that if Iran does anything at all to the negative, they will pay a price like few countries have ever paid before."

— John Bolton

Go deeper: The story behind Trump's tweet about Iran

## **Bolton Reinforces Trump Threats Against Iran**

By Brett Samuels

[The Hill](#), July 23, 2018

National security adviser John Bolton on Monday reinforced President Trump's threats against Iran, warning that the country would "pay a price" if it acts negatively toward the United States.

"I spoke to the President over the last several days, and President Trump told me that if Iran does anything at all to the negative, they will pay a price like few countries have ever paid before," Bolton said in a statement Monday morning.

Bolton's comments come roughly 12 hours after President Trump took to Twitter and issued an all-caps warning to Iranian leadership.

"Never, ever threaten the United States again or you will suffer consequences the likes of which few throughout history have ever suffered before. We are no longer a country that will stand for your demented words of violence & death. Be cautious!" Trump tweeted.

To Iranian President Rouhani: NEVER, EVER THREATEN THE UNITED STATES AGAIN OR YOU WILL SUFFER CONSEQUENCES THE LIKES OF WHICH FEW THROUGHOUT HISTORY HAVE EVER SUFFERED BEFORE. WE ARE NO LONGER A COUNTRY THAT WILL STAND FOR YOUR DEMENTED WORDS OF VIOLENCE &

DEATH. BE CAUTIOUS!— Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) July 23, 2018

Trump appeared to be responding to remarks Iranian President Hassan Rouhani gave to a group of diplomats in which he said war with Iran "is the mother of all wars." He also seemed to leave the door open to peace talks, saying peace with Iran "is the mother of all peace."

The tweet came shortly after Secretary of State Mike Pompeo compared Iran's leaders to the mafia and touted U.S. support for the people of Iran, especially protesters who have taken to the streets recently in opposition to the current government.

Pompeo's comments came during an appearance at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum on Sunday evening.

Tensions between the U.S. and Iran have been heightened for years, dating back well before the Trump administration.

However, Trump risked escalation when he withdrew the U.S. from the Iran nuclear deal earlier this year. The Obama-era agreement lifted sanctions on Tehran in exchange for the country abandoning its nuclear program.

Every other country in the pact has vowed to uphold the deal, even in the United States' absence.

Trump's latest rhetoric toward Iran was reminiscent of his threats against North Korea in August, when he warned that any additional threats from the country would be "met with fire, fury and, frankly, power, the likes of which this world has never seen before."

That heated tone eventually gave way to more traditional diplomacy. Trump met with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un last month. While Trump has touted the meeting as an unmitigated success and claimed the country is no longer a nuclear threat, multiple reports have indicated the North Koreans have continued to develop their nuclear arsenal.

## **White House Furthers Trump Threat To Iran**

By John T. Bennett

[CQ Roll Call \(DC\)](#), July 23, 2018

The White House on Monday continued an escalation of threatening rhetoric toward Iran that started with President Donald Trump warning Tehran about "consequences" that no other country has ever experienced.

National Security Adviser John Bolton said he spoke to Trump "over the last several days, and President Trump told me that if Iran does anything at all to the negative, they will pay a price like few countries have ever paid before."

That came about 12 hours after the president fired off a tweet responding to a speech by Iran's president in all capital letters just before midnight that echoed the kind of fire-and-brimstone language he once reserved for North Korea.

Trump addressed the tweet directly to Hassan Rouhani, warning him to “NEVER, EVER THREATEN THE UNITED STATES AGAIN OR YOU WILL SUFFER CONSEQUENCES THE LIKES OF WHICH FEW THROUGHOUT HISTORY HAVE EVER SUFFERED BEFORE.”

The commander in chief appeared to take a shot at his predecessor, Barack Obama, telling Rouhani the United States is “NO LONGER A COUNTRY THAT WILL STAND FOR YOUR DEMENTED WORDS OF VIOLENCE & DEATH,” advising the Iranian leader to “BE CAUTIOUS!”

Tim Kaine, D-Va., a member of the Senate Foreign Relations and Armed Services committees, said in a statement that the “belligerent tweet is another alarming warning sign that he’s blundering toward war with Iran.” He called for the president to continue pressing Rouhani with sanctions and to “not get pulled into another preventable war in the Middle East.”

Rouhani on Sunday warned Trump that any confrontation with Iran would bring about the “mother of all wars.”

“Do not play with the lion’s tail or else you will regret it,” Rouhani said. “Peace with Iran would be the mother of all peace and war with Iran would be the mother of all wars.”

Trump increased the possibility for some kind of conflict when he pulled the United States out of the accord Tehran struck with the Obama administration and other world powers. He has been open to a broader deal that he says would include Russia and some regional powers, which several key European leaders have publicly floated.

Republican lawmakers also have expressed hawkish views of how to handle Iran and its nuclear program, but some have warned Trump to proceed cautiously.

The president has indicated he discussed Iran’s actions in Syria and throughout the Middle East with Russian President Vladimir Putin during their summit last Monday in Finland. The Rouhani speech brought a change in message on Iran from Trump, who recently said Tehran had altered its behavior due to his pressure.

## **Trump ‘Not At All’ Worried About Potential Clash With Iran**

By Gabby Morrongiello

[Washington Examiner](#), July 23, 2018

President Trump on Monday said he isn’t concerned about escalating tensions between the U.S. and Iran, hours after he threatened severe consequences against the regime over its “demented” comments about America.

“Not at all,” Trump responded when asked by reporters at a White House event if he was worried about provoking Iran.

The president lashed out at Iranian leader Hassan Rouhani in a pre-dawn tweet Monday morning, promising

“consequences the likes of which few throughout history have ever suffered before” if officials in Tehran continue their virulent attacks against the United States.

“Be cautious!” Trump warned at the end of the tweet.

The president’s stern warning comes just days after Secretary of State Mike Pompeo described the steps the Trump administration is currently taking to reimpose sanctions against Iran as part of the president’s withdrawal from a nuclear agreement with the country.

Pompeo also blasted the regime for having “heartlessly repressed its own people’s human rights, dignity and fundamental freedoms” during a speech Sunday at the Reagan presidential library in California.

“The United States under President Trump will not stay silent either,” he said.

Top Iranian officials dismissed Trump’s threat in tweets of their own on Monday, including Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif who mocked the president using his own words.

“COLOR US UNIMPRESSED: The world heard even harsher bluster a few months ago. And Iranians have heard them – albeit more civilized ones for 40 yrs. We’ve been around for millennia & seen fall of empires, incl our own, which lasted more than the life of some countries. BE CAUTIOUS!” Zarif tweeted.

## **Iran Accuses Trump Of Engaging In ‘Psychological Warfare’ With Bellicose Tweets**

**Bolton confirms Trump won’t tolerate any “negative” moves by Iran**

By Dave Boyer

[Washington Times](#), July 23, 2018

White House National Security Adviser John R. Bolton said Monday that President Trump won’t tolerate any “negative” actions by Iran, as the administration steps up its “maximum pressure” campaign on Tehran.

“I spoke to the President over the last several days, and President Trump told me that if Iran does anything at all to the negative, they will pay a price like few countries have ever paid before,” Mr. Bolton said in a statement issued by the White House.

His comment came after Mr. Trump tweeted a warning shortly before midnight Sunday to Iranian President Hassan Rouhani:

“NEVER, EVER THREATEN THE UNITED STATES AGAIN OR YOU WILL SUFFER CONSEQUENCES THE LIKES OF WHICH FEW THROUGHOUT HISTORY HAVE EVER SUFFERED BEFORE. WE ARE NO LONGER A COUNTRY THAT WILL STAND FOR YOUR DEMENTED WORDS OF VIOLENCE & DEATH. BE CAUTIOUS!”



A high-ranking Iranian official responded Monday to Mr. Trump's warning of possible military action, saying the president "won't dare" launch an attack on Tehran.

Gen. Gholam Hossein Gheibparvar, chief of a paramilitary arm of the Revolutionary Guard, said Mr. Trump's threat of historic "consequences" for Iran are nothing more than "psychological warfare."

In comments reported by Iran's state-run ISNA news agency, Gen. Gheibparvar said Mr. Trump "won't dare" attack Iran.

Some Democrats in Congress reacted with alarm to Mr. Trump's comments.

"President Trump's belligerent tweet is another alarming warning sign that he's blundering toward war with Iran," said Sen. Tim Kaine, Virginia Democrat and a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. "Just months after the president backed out of the deal that prevented Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons, the administration's hostile rhetoric and efforts to stir up internal protests against the regime are dangerous. The U.S. should continue to target Iran with tough sanctions, but we should not get pulled into another preventable war in the Middle East."

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said the U.S. is committed to "undertaking a diplomatic and financial pressure campaign to cut off the funds that the regime uses to enrich itself and support death and destruction."

"We have an obligation to put maximum pressure on the regime's ability to generate and move money, and we will do so," Mr. Pompeo said Sunday night in a speech at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum in California. "At the center of this campaign is the re-imposition of sanctions on Iran's banking and energy sectors."

Iranian lawmaker Heshmatollah Falahatpisheh told the Associated Press that believes a military confrontation between Iran and the U.S. is highly unlikely. He said Mr. Trump and Mr. Rouhani merely "express themselves through speeches since diplomatic channels are closed." The two countries ended diplomatic relations in 1979.

The state-owned news agency belittled Mr. Trump's warning tweet to Mr. Rouhani, describing it as a "passive reaction."

## **Trump Tweets Stark Warning To Iranian Leaders Not To Threaten The U.S.**

By Susan Crabtree

[Washington Free Beacon](#), July 23, 2018

President Trump and his top U.S. diplomat ramped up rhetoric aimed at Iranian political leaders and clerics late Sunday night, with Trump warning Iranian President Rouhani to not threaten the United States again or face grave consequences.

Trump's threat, which was delivered in a tweet in all capital letters, came after Secretary of State Mike Pompeo assailed the regime in a scathing speech, labeling it a kleptocracy that operates like the mafia and pledging the United States will support the aims of Iranian protesters who have had the courage to publicly denounce and continue to protest the regime's corruption.

"To Iranian President Rouhani: NEVER, EVER THREATEN THE UNITED STATES AGAIN OR YOU WILL SUFFER CONSEQUENCES THE LIKES OF WHICH FEW THROUGHOUT HISTORY HAVE EVER SUFFERED BEFORE. WE ARE NO LONGER A COUNTRY THAT WILL STAND FOR YOUR DEMENTED WORDS OF VIOLENCE & DEATH. BE CAUTIOUS!" Trump tweeted.

In his remarks, Pompeo had called out the worst offenders in the Iranian government by name, accusing Supreme Leader, the Ayatollah Khamenei, of profiting from a \$95 billion hedge fund. He also announced that the United States is launching a new 24/7 Farsi-language designed to circumvent internet censorship "so that ordinary Iranians inside of Iran and around the globe can know that America stands with them."

Trump was responding to a bellicose warning from Rouhani, issued ahead of Pompeo's speech.

"Americans should know that peace with Iran is the mother of all peace, and war with Iran is the mother of all wars," Rouhani told a meeting of Iranian diplomats, according to the state news agency.

"You are not in a position to incite the Iranian nation against Iranian security and interests," he said.

The hostile words between the leaders came amid a cross-country uprising in Iran, the fiercest the regime has faced since 2009. It also comes just three weeks before U.S. sanctions, which were lifted during the Obama administration, are set to be re-imposed with more severe sanctions on Iran's oil market planned to begin in November.

Pompeo, during a speech at the Reagan Presidential Library in Southern California, issued the administration's strongest and most significant denunciation of Iranian leaders to date, accusing them of becoming multi-millionaires while mismanaging the economy, using Iranians' money to sponsor terrorism and bolster other tyrannical regimes while leaving their own people to suffer in poverty.

"I think everyone can agree that the regime in Iran has been a nightmare for the Iranian people," he told the audience, which was filled with many prominent Iranian-Americans who fled when the Islamic Revolution took place in 1979 and the ayatollahs came to power.

"Sometimes it seems the world has become desensitized to the regime's authoritarianism at home and its campaigns of violence abroad, but the proud Iranian people are not staying silent about their government's many abuses."

"And the United States under President Trump will not stay silent either," he said.

"In light of the protests and 40 years of regime tyranny, I have a message for the people of Iran: The United States hears you; the United States supports you; the United States is with you."

Just 12 weeks into his tenure as secretary of State, the former CIA director leveled detailed corruption charges against several members of the Iran's leadership.

Khamenei has his own "personal, off-the-books hedge fund called the Setad, worth \$95 billion, with a 'B,'" Pompeo said. "The wealth is untaxed, it is ill-gotten, and it is used as a slush fund for the [Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps]."

Sadeq Larijani, the head of Iran's judiciary, is worth at least \$300 million, Pompeo said, accusing Larijani of embezzling the public funds into his own bank account. He pointed out that the Trump administration sanctioned Larijani in January for human rights abuses.

"Call me crazy—you won't be the first—but I'm a little skeptical that a thieving thug under international sanctions is the right man to be Iran's highest-ranking judicial official," Pompeo said.

IRGC officer and Minister of Interior Sadeq Mahsouli is nicknamed the "Billionaire General" and went from being an IRGC officer at the end of the Iran-Iraq war to being worth billions of dollars.

"Being an old college buddy of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad just might have something to do with it as well," he said to laughter.

Grand Ayatollah Makaram Shirazi is known at the "Sultan of Sugar" for his illicit trading of sugar that has generated more than \$100 million, Pompeo pointed out.

"He has pressured the Iranian government to lower subsidies to domestic sugar producers while he floods the market with his own more expensive imported sugar," he said. "This type of activity puts ordinary Iranians out of work."

"The level of corruption and wealth among Iranian leaders shows that Iran is run by something that resembles the mafia more than a government," he said.

Pompeo highlighted Iran's a decades-long campaign of violence and destabilization abroad, all motivated by the regime's mission of exporting its revolution and intolerance.

"Assad, Lebanese Hezbollah, Hamas, Shia militant groups in Iraq and Houthis in Yemen feed on billions of regime cash while the Iranian people shout slogans like 'Leave Syria, think about us.'"

He also pointedly mentioned a recent disrupted plot by an Iranian "diplomat" based in Vienna who was charged with supplying explosives for a terrorist bomb scheduled to go off at a political rally in France.

"This tells you everything you need to know about the regime: At the same time, they're trying to convince Europe to

stay in the nuclear deal, they're covertly plotting terrorist attacks in the heart of Europe."

At one point, when Pompeo was listing several Americans detained and missing inside Iran, and the Trump administration's efforts to free them, a protestor interrupted.

"The Trump-Pence regime is kidnapping children," the protestor shouted to which the audience booed then broke into a chant of "USA, USA, USA."

Pompeo waited for the commotion to die down before remarking, "If there were only so much freedom of expression in Iran."

Pompeo also did not leave Rouhani and Foreign Minister Javad Zarif unscathed, referring to them as "merely polished front men for the ayatollahs international con artistry."

"Their nuclear deal didn't make them moderates; it made them wolves in sheep's clothing," he said.

During a question and answer session, Pompeo also addressed widespread anger in the Iranian-American community, which was expressed on Twitter during the speech, that the Trump administration's travel ban on Iranian citizens coming to the U.S. is hurting average Iranians, as well as the exchange of ideas between to the two countries.

Pompeo unapologetically defended the travel ban, arguing that U.S. security comes first, and the Iranian government has refused to provide data-sharing information on its citizens who want to travel to the U.S.

"Iran continues to deny us the basic data-sharing systems that hundreds of countries—or excuse me, dozens and dozens of countries have already provided us. We would like Iran to do that."

"We still allow students to come in. There are many students. I'm sure there are students here tonight who are Iranians who are here studying. We welcome that," he said. "But this administration does have as one of its primary policies to make sure that we appropriately vet all those who come to the nation so that we can keep our country safe. That's the plan. That's the policy."

He also addressed criticism that the Trump administration is fomenting more hostility with Iran that will only ratchet up the consequences for both countries, including more attacks on the United States, Israel and other western allies.

"I always remind those who think it's not possible or think the time horizon will be measure in centuries not hours, I always remind them that things change. There are disjunctive moments. There are times when things happen that are unexpected, unanticipated. Our revolution could be one of them."

"We don't know the right moment," he continued. "We don't know the day that the behavior of the Iranian regime will change. But we do know the things the world is obligated to

do so that when the right time comes, when the right moment comes, the opportunity is more likely to find its fulfillment.”

## **Pompeo’s Iran Truth-Telling**

[Wall Street Journal](#), July 23, 2018

Full-text stories from the Wall Street Journal are available to Journal subscribers by clicking the link.

## **Should We Be Anticipating War With Iran? No, But It Could Get Nasty**

By Rick Gladstone

[New York Times](#), July 23, 2018

The escalating invective between President Trump and Iran’s leaders, reminiscent of the president’s bombastic exchanges with North Korea, have raised fears of a military confrontation in the Persian Gulf — a vital conduit for global oil supplies — or perhaps even something bigger.

In a late-night Twitter message, Mr. Trump warned President Hassan Rouhani of Iran in all-capital letters of apocalyptic consequences if his country threatened the United States, increasing tensions to a new level. “BE CAUTIOUS!” Mr. Trump wrote. Oil prices surged briefly on worries about potential supply disruptions.

To Iranian President Rouhani: NEVER, EVER THREATEN THE UNITED STATES AGAIN OR YOU WILL SUFFER CONSEQUENCES THE LIKES OF WHICH FEW THROUGHOUT HISTORY HAVE EVER SUFFERED BEFORE. WE ARE NO LONGER A COUNTRY THAT WILL STAND FOR YOUR DEMENTED WORDS OF VIOLENCE & DEATH. BE CAUTIOUS!

Many analysts of Iranian politics viewed Mr. Trump’s message as part of an intimidation gambit, more than an actual threat. Few said they were predicting a war between Iran and the United States, partly because Iran’s hierarchy is well aware that its forces are vastly outgunned by an American military that would have air and naval dominance. Still, nobody is ruling out an armed clash or another form of Iranian response, like a cyberattack, to send Mr. Trump a defiant message.

“I don’t think either side wants war,” said Cliff Kupchan, chairman of the Eurasia Group, a political risk consultancy in Washington. However, Mr. Kupchan said, “the Iranians are playing with a different fish — this guy bites — and that means we’re entering a potentially escalatory phase, and that’s a real risk.”

Here are answers to some basic questions about the latest face-off between Iran and the United States:

Mr. Trump’s critics say he has surrounded himself with like-minded right-wing ideologues, most notably John R. Bolton, his national security adviser, and Mike Pompeo, his secretary of state, who would like to see regime change in Iran and were happy in May when he scrapped American

participation in the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran negotiated by Mr. Trump’s predecessor, Barack Obama.

Some political analysts say Mr. Trump believes his threats of escalation against Iran may force Iranian leaders to seek negotiations with him to address what he considered fatal flaws in the nuclear deal, in which Iran pledged to never acquire atomic bombs. Mr. Trump has repeatedly congratulated himself for — in his view — having successfully executed such a pressure strategy against North Korea’s leader, Kim Jong-un, describing it as critical to Mr. Kim’s decision to halt testing nuclear bombs and missiles and engage with Mr. Trump in a summit meeting last month in Singapore.

Relations with Iran have been combustible ever since the 1979 Islamic revolution that toppled the American-backed shah. But the basis for the current spike in tensions lay at least in part in the 2016 election of Mr. Trump, who has embraced the position held by Israel and Saudi Arabia, America’s closest Middle East allies, that Iran is an implacable enemy bent on becoming a nuclear-armed state.

In repudiating the 2015 nuclear agreement, Mr. Trump has reimposed and intensified nuclear-related economic sanctions on Iran, warning other countries to stop buying Iranian oil, the country’s most important export, or risk economic penalties from the United States. He has included Iran on a list of mostly Muslim countries subject to an American travel ban. He has placed Iran’s central bank governor on a terrorism blacklist. His administration has described Iran’s clerical hierarchy as an irredeemably corrupt kleptocracy, and has cheered Iranians who have protested Iran’s political repressions and increasingly dire economic problems.

The American threat to Iran’s oil exports has hit a particular nerve in Iran’s leadership, which has said it may close the Strait of Hormuz, a narrow waterway to the Persian Gulf that accounts for up to 40 percent of oil tanker traffic, if Iran’s oil sales are curtailed.

On Sunday, Mr. Rouhani told Iranian diplomats in Tehran that Mr. Trump risked “the mother of all wars” with Iran and admonished him not to “play with the lion’s tail,” which may have been the catalyst for the ferocity of Mr. Trump’s Twitter response hours later.

Opinions about American relations with Iran are so polarized it is difficult to speculate. But analysts who have long studied Iran expressed strong doubts that its leaders would capitulate to American pressure.

“A regime that for 40 years has said ‘Death to America’ cannot, in the context of president Trump’s aggressive policies, back down,” said Houchang Hassan-Yari, a political-science professor at Queen’s University and Royal Military College in Ontario, Canada. “They have to stand against the American position.”

Others said the Trump administration might be underestimating the tenacity of the Iranian system, which has an extensive apparatus for quelling internal political threats. There is little sign that dissidents in Iran can do more than carry out scattered protests. The Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps, the paramilitary force that is intensely loyal to Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the supreme leader, wields enormous economic and political influence.

There is little question that the United States would prevail in a conventional war, an outcome not lost on the Iranians when the United States quickly toppled the Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein and routed the Taliban from power in Afghanistan.

Just judging by statistics, the conventional United States military dwarfs Iran's in every way. There are roughly 1.3 million active American military personnel, nearly triple that of Iran. Annual military spending by the United States exceeded \$600 billion last year, versus about \$16 billion in Iran. The Americans have nearly 6,000 tanks, versus fewer than 1,700 in Iran. The aerial and naval forces of the United States — more than 13,000 aircraft and nearly 300 battle vessels — vastly outnumber Iran's.

That does not mean Mr. Trump is ready to back his threats by invading Iran — such a possibility, on the contrary, is seen as nonexistent. Mr. Trump has said he wants to get the United States out of foreign military entanglements, and Americans have shown little appetite for another war.

"I don't see an actual war — it's not in anyone's interest," said Barbara Slavin, director of the Future of Iran Initiative at the Atlantic Council, a Washington-based research group. "Trump doesn't even want to keep boots on the ground in Syria."

A possible point of conflict is the Strait of Hormuz, where speedboats of the Revolutionary Guards have occasionally harassed American Fifth Fleet warships that patrol the waterway. In an emailed advisory to clients, Mr. Kupchan said, "War is not imminent, but the probability of an escalatory incident in the Strait of Hormuz is increasing."

The strait has been the backdrop for violent confrontations before. In April 1988, United States naval forces sank three Iranian warships and destroyed two oil platforms after an American frigate was struck by an Iranian mine. Three months later, the American warship Vincennes fired missiles that downed a civilian Iranian jetliner that the Americans say they mistook for a warplane, killing 290 people aboard.

Some analysts speculated privately that Mr. Trump might be eager to avenge what he saw as an American humiliation in January of 2016 — a few days before the nuclear agreement took effect — when Revolutionary Guards seized 10 American sailors from two patrol boats and disseminated photos of them in captivity before they were released.

For their part, Iranian officials have shown no sign that Mr. Trump's latest Twitter threat has frightened them. Rather, some have treated it with sarcasm.

Mohammad Javad Zarif, Iran's American-educated foreign minister and a frequent Twitter user himself, offered this retort on Monday afternoon: "We've been around for millennia & seen fall of empires, incl our own, which lasted more than the life of some countries. BE CAUTIOUS!"

## **Trump's All-Caps Threat Against Iran: Loud But Hardly Clear**

By Mark Landler

[New York Times](#), July 23, 2018

President Trump's vituperative tweet against Iran late on Sunday showed his determination to use the same approach that he took to engineer a diplomatic breakthrough with North Korea. But Mr. Trump's top advisers are far more united in their hostility to engaging with Iran, and Iran is far less likely to bend to such pressure.

Mr. Trump's threat that Iran would "suffer consequences the likes of which few throughout history have ever suffered before," delivered before midnight in all capital letters, succeeded in changing the subject after a week of bad headlines about his meeting with President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia.

But it only deepened questions about the long-term direction of Mr. Trump's Iran policy. While the White House on Monday did not rule out direct talks between the president and Iran's leaders over its nuclear program, Mr. Trump's hawkish national security team has put the focus more on toppling the Iranian government than striking a new deal with it.

A few hours before Mr. Trump's tweet, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo vowed in a speech that the United States would work with the Iranian people to undermine their clerical leaders, whom he described as "hypocritical holy men," guilty of looting their country to enrich themselves and finance Islamist terrorism around the world.

The White House scrambled to lend a veneer of coordination to Mr. Trump's outburst. Officials said it had come after consultations with the national security adviser, John R. Bolton, and in response to statements by Iran's president, Hassan Rouhani. A senior administration official said it augured a "more aggressive, comprehensive approach" to Iran.

Other people who know Mr. Trump said his decision to respond in such fiery terms was driven almost entirely by his search for a distraction from questions about Russia. Mr. Rouhani's words were hardly unusual, they noted: He warned the United States against the "mother of all wars" with Iran, but also opened the door to the "mother of all peace."



There was nothing in Mr. Trump's tweet to suggest he is looking to talk anytime soon. But his words carried a distinct echo of his threat last summer to North Korea's leader, Kim Jong-un, whom he said faced "fire, fury and frankly power, the likes of which this world has never seen before."

Eight months later, Mr. Trump accepted Mr. Kim's invitation to meet, and after spending a few hours with him in Singapore, Mr. Trump declared that he and Mr. Kim had ended the nuclear crisis with North Korea. He has stuck to that assessment despite the fact that North Korea pledged to do nothing beyond what it has long promised, and that subsequent negotiations have bogged down in mutual recrimination.

When Mr. Trump withdrew the United States from the Iran nuclear deal in May, he told aides and foreign leaders that his policy of maximum pressure had forced Mr. Kim to the bargaining table, and that a similar policy of overwhelming pressure would enable the United States to extract a better deal from Iran.

He has even taken credit for what he says are changes in Iran's behavior in the region since he pulled out of the deal — an assertion that baffles Iran experts, who say there is no evidence of changes in how Iranian is operating.

Experts and former officials who have negotiated with Iran listed at least three reasons Mr. Trump would find it difficult to replicate his North Korea breakthrough with Iran.

First, Iran's leadership is more complex and multifaceted than the one-man state of North Korea, making it harder for Tehran to reverse course like Mr. Kim did, and reach out to Mr. Trump.

Second, there are well-financed, powerful constituencies at home and abroad — like the Israeli government and the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, a Washington-based lobbying group — which will mobilize against any new diplomatic overture to Iran.

Third, Mr. Trump's unilateral decision to abandon the 2015 nuclear deal gives the Iranians little incentive to negotiate with the United States, especially since the other five signers — Britain, France, Germany, Russia and China — are still adhering to it.

"The bet they're making is that all those countries will knuckle under, and that Iran will come crawling back to the table," said Jake Sullivan, who took part in secret talks with Iran in 2012 as an aide to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton that led to President Barack Obama's deal.

But Mr. Sullivan said the Trump administration had set an impossible standard for any successor agreement: that it settle all of Iran's other issues in the Middle East, from Syria to Yemen.

"Their entire strategy is the pressure itself, with the hope that it brings down the government," Mr. Sullivan said.

For more than a decade, Mr. Bolton advocated "the overthrow of the mullahs' regime in Tehran." But he recently told Voice of America that leadership change was "not the objective of the administration." Mr. Pompeo likewise stopped short of calling for regime change, though he did not mention diplomacy in his speech Sunday at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley, Calif.

By contrast, Mr. Pompeo is heavily invested in diplomacy with North Korea, where, as C.I.A. director, he helped lay the groundwork for the Singapore summit meeting and, as secretary of state, has led the negotiations with Mr. Kim's subordinates. Mr. Bolton took a lower profile on North Korea, in part because he nearly sabotaged the meeting by declaring that the United States should use Libya as a model for ridding North Korea of its nuclear arsenal.

On Iran, however, Mr. Bolton has helped set the tone. On Monday morning, he issued a statement that was every bit as bellicose as Mr. Trump's, except for being in lowercase letters.

"I spoke to the president over the last several days," he said, "and President Trump told me that if Iran does anything at all to the negative, they will pay a price like few countries have ever paid before."

Vali R. Nasr, the dean of the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, said: "The endgame for Trump is different than it is for hawks like Bolton and Pompeo. Trump is much more interested in what comes out of it for him personally, in terms of a Nobel Peace Prize."

Even if Mr. Trump overcame the objections of his staff to pursue a diplomatic opening, experts said it was unlikely Iran would be receptive. His decision to pull out of the nuclear deal has strengthened the hand of hard-liners there. Leaders like Mr. Rouhani, who was once viewed as a moderate, have become more hawkish.

"The Iranians have a more complex political environment than North Korea," said Suzanne Maloney, an Iran expert and deputy director of the foreign policy program at the Brookings Institution. "It's relatively easy for Kim Jong-un to turn on a dime and take advantage of an opportunity; it's much harder for them to turn on a dime."

Iran, Ms. Maloney noted, reacted relatively calmly to Mr. Trump's tweet. The country's leaders, she said, believe that the president is trying to bait them to breach the nuclear deal, which they do not want to do. But his threats are rattling the Iranians, who worry that Mr. Trump's aides might goad him into a confrontation.

"This is moving quickly," she said, "and the president has an establishment around him that seems eager for some kind of dust-up with Iran."

## **Trump Turns All-Caps Ire Toward Iran**

By Amy Teibel

[Bloomberg News](#), July 23, 2018

In the war of words between Tehran and Washington, Donald Trump is brandishing the CAPS lock key as his administration seeks to stir up internal discontent with Iran's ruling clerics.

Next month, the U.S. starts imposing the sanctions it vowed when it quit the Iran nuclear deal. Iranian President Hassan Rouhani yesterday warned against threatening his nation's oil exports, saying any "war with Iran will be the mother of all wars."

Trump retorted with the kind of bellicose language he used against North Korea before sitting down with Kim Jong Un.

Trump may be trying to move past criticism he was too appeasing during last week's summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin. With tens of thousands of U.S. military personnel in the Gulf – where allies including Saudi Arabia are fighting proxy wars with Iran – he may also be trying to frighten Iran into negotiating a new deal that also addresses its ballistic missile work and support for militant groups. His administration plans to take its message to the Iranian people through new Farsi-language channels across television, radio and the internet.

"We do not believe they are interested in hearing the fake news any longer," Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said. Global Headlines

Two days in Argentina | Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin landed in Buenos Aires for a G-20 summit on Friday with the risk of a currency war in the air, but in a press conference Saturday he hammered home America's longstanding commitment to a strong greenback. He also said the U.S. isn't trying to intervene in the dollar market. He left with the world's top finance chiefs feeling much more at ease.

Merkel challenger | In a year of German political turmoil, Finance Minister Olaf Scholz's calm has helped his popularity soar. As Birgit Jennen writes, the Social Democrat's closeness to France on European matters and focus on fiscal prudence makes him an ally of Christian Democratic Chancellor Angela Merkel. It also makes her vice chancellor a potential challenger further down the road.

Brazil's firebrand candidate | Jair Bolsonaro, a former Army captain campaigning on a law-and-order platform ahead of Brazil's presidential race, secured his Social Liberal Party's nomination yesterday, while struggling to find a running mate. In the most uncertain election since the country's 1985 return to democracy, Bolsonaro is leading polls on promises to tackle corruption and violent crime, while admitting ignorance on economics.

Fueling unrest | A \$20 billion project in Mozambique is becoming a test case for the government's efforts to export natural gas as it struggles to thwart an emerging Islamist insurgency that's killed more than 50 people in the region this year. The new plant will uproot about 1,500 villagers and

block their access to the ocean, the source of most of their livelihoods, a move that is upsetting residents that include potential militant recruits.

Democracy danger | More countries are holding elections, but on average, the world is becoming less democratic for the first time in decades. While Hungarians, Russians, Turks and Venezuelans voted this year, their ballots didn't count for much and, as our exclusive interactive dataviz shows, more voting does not necessarily mean more freedom.

What to Watch

Prime Minister Theresa May's cabinet meets in northeast England today for a final time before summer recess. With the risk of no deal on the country's split from the European Union growing, the new foreign secretary is calling for more EU flexibility in negotiations and ministers start a week of European shuttle diplomacy.

U.S. Special Counsel Robert Mueller's first test in court is set to start this week in Alexandria, Virginia, where Trump's former campaign chairman Paul Manafort is to be tried on bank-fraud and tax charges.

Midterm watch

The next litmus test for Democrats' attempts to claim a wave of congressional wins this November comes in an Aug. 7 special election for a U.S. House seat in the suburbs of Columbus, Ohio that Republicans have held for 36 years.

And finally... Emmanuel Macron is fighting to change the growing impression in France that his administration is sans reproche. So the last thing he needed was a video that emerged last week of one of his close aides beating a protester at a May Day rally. The aide has been arrested, and fired, but the omnipresent French president has gone very quiet.

— With assistance by Helene Fouquet

## **Trump To Iranian President: 'Never Ever Threaten' U.S. Again, Or 'Suffer Consequences'**

By Kim Hjelmggaard And David Jackson

[USA Today](#), July 23, 2018

Since taking office, President Donald Trump has developed a reputation for firing off heated tweets that seem to escalate disputes with world leaders at odds with the U.S.

On Monday, Trump trained his social media ire on Iran, prompting observers to wonder whether the president is seeking a confrontation with Iran or trying to change the subject politically.

White House spokeswoman Sarah Sanders described Trump's near-midnight tweet Sunday as a response to an Iranian threat and said, "If anybody's inciting anything, look no further than to Iran."

Asked by a reporter Monday afternoon if he had any worries about provoking tensions with Iran, Trump said “none at all” as he toured the Made in America exhibition on the White House South Lawn.

Ayatollah Amoli Larijani, Iran’s chief judiciary official, said the U.S. needed to know that if it attacked Iran, it would “receive a response that would be written in history,” according to comments carried by IRNA, a state-run news agency.

Larijani said Trump’s remarks were not unexpected from a “foolish person like Trump.”

John Bolton, Trump’s national security adviser, said he has spoken with Trump for “several days” about Iran, and the president “told me that if Iran does anything at all to the negative, they will pay a price that few countries have ever paid before.”

Foreign policy analysts wondered whether Trump was looking to move past a spate of political troubles, including fallout from last week’s meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin, or is serious about confronting Iraq.

As Washington prepared to reimpose economic sanctions on Iran after its withdrawal from the 2015 nuclear accord, Trump ratcheted up tensions late Sunday night with a stark tweet written in all capital letters.

“NEVER EVER THREATEN THE UNITED STATES AGAIN OR YOU WILL SUFFER CONSEQUENCES THE LIKE OF WHICH FEW THROUGHOUT HISTORY HAVE EVER SUFFERED BEFORE,” Trump wrote.

Trump was responding to Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, who said earlier in the day that “American(s) must understand well that peace with Iran is the mother of all peace and war with Iran is the mother of all wars.” Rouhani cautioned Trump to stop “playing with the lion’s tail or else you will regret it.”

Trump pulled the U.S. out of the nuclear deal between Iran and world powers in May despite objections from China, France, Germany, Russia and the United Kingdom. The deal was intended to prevent Tehran from developing a nuclear weapon.

Trump ordered increased American sanctions after those sanctions had been suspended as part of the accord. The first part of the sanctions – affecting Iran’s access to U.S. dollars, its trade in gold and other commodities and its car industry – will snap back on Aug. 4. Sanctions on Iran’s oil industry will be reimposed in November.

Rouhani, a moderate in Iran’s theocracy that is ruled by Supreme Leader

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, has lashed out against Trump for threatening to reimpose the sanctions, for moving the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem, and for banning travel to the U.S. from certain Muslim-majority countries.

Trump has suggested that because of Iran’s poor economy and what he has characterized as its increasing

isolation, Iranian leaders are “going to call me and say ‘Let’s make a deal.’”

Iran has rejected talks.

Some analysts said Trump may be seeking a replay of his approach to North Korea. After months of attacking its leader, Kim Jong Un, and pledging to rain “fire and fury” on the North Korean leader if he kept up his nuclear threats, Trump suddenly agreed in the spring to a meeting with Kim last month.

Yet North Korea has not yet taken affirmative steps toward ending its nuclear weapons programs, analysts said, and an aggressive approach to Iran may not lead to much in the absence of the nuclear agreement.

Colin Kahl, national security adviser to Vice President Joe Biden during the Obama administration, said Trump has “appeased” Russia and “gone soft” on North Korea while abandoning the Iran nuclear deal without a backup plan.

“Now the Administration is pushing regime change & the 2 sides are exchanging threats like this,” Kahl tweeted. “Very dangerous.”

Others noted that Trump’s threat to Iran came in a single tweet amid a series of posts defending his meeting with Putin and calling for an end to the special counsel investigation into Russian efforts to influence the 2016 presidential election on Trump’s behalf.

“He’s venting,” said Aaron David Miller, a former Middle East negotiator for presidents of both parties. “He wants to appear tough, and he wants to change the channel.”

Ned Price, a special assistant for national security during the Obama administration, said, “as with all things Trump, it’s impossible to know whether this is the result of strategy or impulsiveness.”

At least one thing is clear, he said: “What’s also undeniable is that the threat of conflict with Iran is much more real than it ever was with North Korea.”

Since taking office, Trump has developed a reputation for firing off heated tweets that seem to escalate disputes with leaders of nations at odds with the U.S. In the case of North Korea, the public war of words cooled quickly and led to the high-profile summit with Kim last month in Singapore.

“WE ARE NO LONGER A COUNTRY THAT WILL STAND FOR YOUR DEMENTED WORDS OF VIOLENCE & DEATH. BE CAUTIOUS!,” Trump wrote in his latest verbal barrage against Iran.

On Sunday night, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo separately addressed a group of Iranian-Americans in California. Pompeo denounced Rouhani and Iran’s Foreign Minister Javad Zarif, Iran’s chief nuclear deal negotiator. He described them as “merely polished front men for (Khamenei’s) international con artistry.” He said the Iranian leadership resembles “the Mafia more than a government” and vowed to prevent Iran from exporting its oil to other countries.

"For 40 years the Iranian people have heard from their own government that America is the Great Satan. We do not believe they are interested in hearing that #FakeNews any longer," Pompeo tweeted Monday.

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman, Bahram Qasemi, on Monday ridiculed Pompeo's remarks, according to IRNA, the state-run news agency.

"Pompeo's words constituted very clear evidence showing the US efforts to meddle in Iran's internal affairs," he said. "The hypocritical and absurd address made by the US secretary of state was just a propaganda move."

## **Sorry, Trump. Your Misdirection Won't Work This Time.**

By Washington (DC) Post

[Washington Post](#), July 23, 2018

"In order to get elected, @BarackObama will start a war with Iran." That was Donald Trump tweeting in 2011.

This was President Trump tweeting late Sunday night: "To Iranian President Rouhani: 'NEVER, EVER THREATEN THE UNITED STATES AGAIN OR YOU WILL SUFFER CONSEQUENCES THE LIKES OF WHICH FEW THROUGHOUT HISTORY HAVE EVER SUFFERED BEFORE. WE ARE NO LONGER A COUNTRY THAT WILL STAND FOR YOUR DEMENTED WORDS OF VIOLENCE & DEATH. BE CAUTIOUS!'"

As usual, Trump is doing exactly what he accuses his opponents of doing, in this case wagging the dog.

This is part of a pattern. During a presidential debate, when Hillary Clinton accused Trump — presciently — of being a Russian puppet, he shot back: "No, you're the puppet." The humiliation in Helsinki confirmed Clinton's warning — and explains Trump's rhetorical escalation against Iran.

Trump is clearly furious that he didn't get the credit he thinks he deserves for a "GREAT meeting with Putin." Of course, not even his top aides know all of what was discussed or decided behind closed doors. All that the public saw was that Trump accepted Putin's lies over the truth-telling of the U.S. intelligence community, and that he refused to criticize the Russian dictator for his many offenses — including ongoing cyberattacks on the United States. Trump's subservience triggered a week of toxic headlines as criticism poured in from past intelligence officials. Former director of national intelligence James R. Clapper Jr. suggested that "the Russians have something" on Trump; former CIA director John Brennan judged the president's performance "nothing short of treasonous."

The next move was as predictable as Trump golfing at one of his resorts: He tried to change the subject. His first attempt, on Friday, was to tweet about his favorite controversy: National Football League players kneeling

during the national anthem. His stern demand — "First time kneeling, out for game. Second time kneeling, out for season/no pay!" — did not generate the headlines he so transparently hoped for. Maybe he should have suggested guillotining for a third offense.

Try, try again. Hence his Sunday night threat against Iran. Coming from any other president, this out-of-the-blue, ALL-CAPS ultimatum would have led to suggestions that he's hitting the bottle. But for Trump the teetotaler, it's just business as usual. This time, he got the world's attention. I was actually planning to write Monday about Trump and Russia. Instead, I'm writing about Trump and Iran. Far more important from Trump's perspective, the talk on cable news turned from Russia to Iran. Mission accomplished.

The problem for Trump is that the credibility of his threats is diminishing. Sure, he scared the world silly in the summer of 2017 by threatening to rain "fire and fury" on North Korea. But within a year, he was all but surrendering to "Little Rocket Man" — legitimating and lavishly praising him on the world stage while stopping U.S.-South Korea joint military exercises in return for nothing but vague promises of denuclearization at some unspecified point in the future. The Post reports that even Trump recognizes that North Korea isn't living up to its bargain, even though he publicly claims that negotiations are "going very well." (Good to know he's deceptive but not delusional.)

The president loves to bluff, but, like many bullies, he is actually a coward who is afraid of real conflict. When Trump picked John Bolton as his national security adviser in March, Kaitlan Collins of CNN reported that he made the ultra-hawk promise that he "wouldn't start any wars." I heard something similar from my own sources. Bolton denied it, but the sentiments ring true, because Trump has turned out to be less bellicose than expected.

Trump has started trade wars but, mercifully, not shooting wars. Aside from a few raids by Special Operations forces and the continuation of existing conflicts against the Islamic State and the Taliban, Trump has used force twice — his ineffectual cruise missile attacks against Syria in 2017 and 2018 to punish Bashar al-Assad for his use of chemical weapons. These were precisely the kind of "unbelievably small" strikes that President Barack Obama contemplated in 2013 — and that Trump criticized at the time.

It is, of course, a good thing that Trump is not turning out to be the warmonger that many feared he would be. But there is a real danger from having the president revealed as a BS artist, too: His threats carry less weight. That, ironically, makes it harder for him to achieve his objectives without resorting to force.

At one time it appeared that Trump would be able to implement Richard Nixon's "madman theory" of international relations and scare other states into acquiescence more successfully than Nixon had done. But Trump's approach



failed with North Korea, and there is no reason to think it will work with Iran. If past is prologue, maybe next year Trump will be claiming credit for averting war and praising Iranian President Hassan Rouhani as talented, funny, intelligent and a strong leader who loves his people. But what scares me is that, after so much bluster and braggadocio, to make his threats believable Trump may actually have to start carrying them out.

## **Sarah Sanders Asked If Trump Is Trying To 'Change The Subject' From Russia To Iran**

By Benny Johnson

[Daily Caller](#), July 23, 2018

Late Sunday night, President Trump sent out a threatening tweet to the leader of Iran.

In the tweet directed toward Iranian President Rouhani, Trump said in all-caps, "NEVER, EVER THREATEN THE UNITED STATES AGAIN OR YOU WILL SUFFER CONSEQUENCES THE LIKES OF WHICH FEW THROUGHOUT HISTORY HAVE EVER SUFFERED BEFORE. WE ARE NO LONGER A COUNTRY THAT WILL STAND FOR YOUR DEMENTED WORDS OF VIOLENCE & DEATH. BE CAUTIOUS!"

The response to the tweet has been alarming.

Press secretary Sarah Sanders took questions outside the White House Monday, including one from a reporter who asked if the president was trying to "change the subject" from Russia to Iran. Sanders said bluntly that Trump can focus on two things at once, unlike the media.

"I think the president has the ability, unlike a lot of those in the media, to actually focus on more than one issue at a time," Sanders quipped, "and certainly we know the media's obsessed with speaking about all Russia, all the time, but the president's focused on a lot of things that are taking place across the globe, and Iran is one of them and it's been something we've talked about since we first came into this administration."

Sanders continued, "The president's responding to Iran and he's not going to allow them to continue to make threats against America. If anybody is inciting anything, look no further than to Iran."

## **After Trump Slams Iran's President, Iranian Officials Accuse Him Of 'Psychological Warfare'**

[Washington Post](#), July 23, 2018

Iranian officials accused the White House of waging "psychological warfare" and vowed Monday to resist any U.S. efforts to destabilize their government, after stark warnings by President Trump's against perceived Iranian threats.

The rapid backlash from Tehran marked some of the harshest exchanges between Iran's leadership and

Washington since the Trump administration exited the 2015 Iran nuclear deal in May and moved to reimpose sanctions on Iran.

It also showed the widening gulf between the United States and other world powers that were part of the nuclear accord, which eased international economic pressures on Iran in exchange for curbs on its nuclear program.

European nations and others are now struggling to keep the nuclear accord alive and maintain economic ties with Iran.

The late-night missive from Trump was in response to earlier remarks from Iran's president, Hassan Rouhani, in which he said that war with Iran would be "the mother of all wars." He also said the United States "must realize that peace with Iran is the mother of all peace," Iran's Tasnim News Agency reported.

Trump fired back in all capitals, saying that Iran would "SUFFER CONSEQUENCES THE LIKES OF WHICH FEW THROUGHOUT HISTORY HAVE EVER SUFFERED BEFORE."

"WE ARE NO LONGER A COUNTRY THAT WILL STAND FOR YOUR DEMENTED WORDS OF VIOLENCE & DEATH. BE CAUTIOUS!" he wrote.

The saber-rattling caused Iran's currency, the rial, to plunge to a record low against the dollar Monday, observers said.

The Trump administration has announced new efforts to try to undermine Iran's government, including social media messaging and a round-the-clock Persian-language broadcast channel.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced the new initiative Sunday night during a speech to a crowd of Iranian Americans in California. In the past, U.S.-funded media efforts in Iran have had little impact and reached only a small audience.

The United States is also set to reimpose harsh sanctions after withdrawing from the nuclear deal with Iran and world powers earlier this year. That agreement, which was negotiated by the Obama administration, curbed elements of Iran's atomic energy program that raised proliferation concerns in exchange for an end to restrictions on Iran's oil exports and banking system.

But Trump has slammed the accord, calling it "the worst deal ever."

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman, Bahram Qassemi, said Monday that Pompeo's speech, in which he likened Iran's rulers to the Mafia, "was hypocritical and absurd."

"These remarks are a clear example of [U.S.] interference in Iran's internal affairs," Tasnim quoted Qassemi as saying.

But the harshest words came from Iran's hard-liners, including Revolutionary Guard commanders.

"We will never abandon our revolutionary beliefs. We will resist pressure from enemies," the head of Iran's paramilitary Basij force, Brig. Gen. Gholam Hossein Gheibparvar, said Monday, the Reuters news agency reported. The comments were carried by the Iranian Students' News Agency.

"Trump cannot do a damn thing against Iran," he said. He dismissed Trump's salvos as "psychological warfare."

Another warning came from Mohsen Rezaei, chairman of Iran's Expediency Council, an advisory body to Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei.

He said Trump is the one who should be cautious, warning that thousands of U.S. troops in the region are "under Iran's blade" — an apparent reference to Iranian proxy forces in places such as Iraq and Syria. The pro-Iranian groups also include Lebanon's Hezbollah, which has waged battles with Israel in the past.

Military experts have long warned that Iran could use such militias to attack U.S. troops in places such as Iraq and Syria. Skirmishes this year between Israel and the Revolutionary Guard and its proxies have already raised the specter of war.

Another military commander, Kiomars Heidari, reiterated late Sunday Iran's threat to block the Strait of Hormuz, a critical waterway for about 30 percent of the world's oil tanker traffic, according to the Brussels-based International Crisis Group.

The strait "should either be safe for everybody or unsafe for everybody," Tasnim quoted Heidari as saying.

Some Iranians blamed the threat from Iran for causing the rial's collapse Monday, while others attributed the fall to Trump's tweet.

"The economy is a very complicated thing. Even Trump's caps lock can decrease the value of the rial," said an Iranian Twitter user using the handle @potaniel.

Twitter is blocked in Iran, and Iranians often use software to circumvent the ban. Many refrain from using their full names to avoid detection.

"Mr. Trump, don't talk with the most nervous people in the world with caps lock on," Tehran-based Hamid said on Twitter.

Others quipped that the fight between Rouhani and Trump was unfair because there are no capital letters in Persian.

Iran's government is now "looking for someone to write Rouhani's reaction in calligraphy," said U.S.-based author Siamak Mosulmani, referring to the ancient and artistic form of writing.

Speaking on "Fox & Friends" on Monday, White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders said Iran is "inciting" tensions.

"The president has been very, very clear, again, since day one what his objectives are, and he's certainly not going

to tolerate the leader of Iran making threats against Americans, making threats against this country, making threats against Israel," she said.

"This is a president who is going to stand up and make sure he is doing what is necessary. He's showing peace through strength. If needed, and steps are required, this president is not afraid to take them."

In Germany — one of the six nations that signed the nuclear deal with Iran — Foreign Ministry spokesman Christofer Burger called for "dialogue" rather than belligerence on all sides.

"We call on all sides to exercise restraint and rhetorical disarmament," he told reporters.

## **Iran Says Pompeo's Remarks Interference In State Matters – Tasnim**

By Reuters Staff

[Reuters](#), July 23, 2018

Full-text stories from Reuters currently cannot be included in this document. You may, however, click the link above to access the story.

## **Iran Foreign Minister On Trump All-caps Tweet: 'Color Us Unimpressed'**

By Justin Wise

[The Hill](#), July 23, 2018

Iran Foreign Minister Javad Zarif on Monday fired back at President Trump's warning that Iran would suffer "consequences" if it continued with its threats against the U.S., saying that the nation is "unimpressed" by the president's words.

"COLOR US UNIMPRESSED," Zif tweeted. "The world heard even harsher bluster a few months ago. And Iranians have heard them —albeit more civilized ones—for 40 yrs."

Zif added that "we've been around for millennia & seen fall of empires, incl our own, which lasted more than the life of some countries. BE CAUTIOUS!"

COLOR US UNIMPRESSED: The world heard even harsher bluster a few months ago. And Iranians have heard them —albeit more civilized ones—for 40 yrs. We've been around for millennia & seen fall of empires, incl our own, which lasted more than the life of some countries. BE CAUTIOUS!— Javad Zarif (@JZarif) July 23, 2018

The statement from Zif comes a day after Trump sent an all-caps tweet warning Iranian President Hassan Rouhani.

"Never, ever threaten the United States again or you will suffer consequences the likes of which few throughout history have ever suffered before," Trump said. "We are no longer a country that will stand for your demented words of violence & death. Be cautious!"

The message from Trump came after Rouhani issued a forceful statement of his own about the U.S. president.

"America should know that peace with Iran is the mother of all peace, and war with Iran is the mother of all wars," Rouhani reportedly told a group of diplomats.

In addition to the back-and-forth between the U.S. and the Iranian president, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Sunday compared Iranian leaders to the mafia during an appearance at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum.

National security adviser John Bolton then reinforced Trump's position on Monday, saying that Iran would "pay a price" if it acts negatively toward the U.S.

Tensions between the U.S. and Iran date back before the Trump administration. However, the relationship has grown heated following Trump's withdrawal of the U.S. from the Iran nuclear deal earlier this year.

The Obama-era agreement eliminated sanctions on Iran in exchange for the nation abandoning its nuclear program. Every other country in the pact has said it will uphold the deal.

## **Netanyahu Praises Trump's Outburst Against Iran**

By Mehul Srivastava In Jerusalem

[Financial Times](#), July 23, 2018

Full-text stories from the Financial Times are available to FT subscribers by clicking the link.

## **Hoyer Says Trump's Iran Tweet Was 'Unbecoming Of An American President'**

By Mike DeBonis

[Washington Post](#), July 23, 2018

House Minority Whip Steny H. Hoyer said Monday that President Trump's bellicose tweet about Iran was "unbecoming of an American president" and called it an attempt to distract from his "essentially un-American" performance at last week's summit in Helsinki with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

The blistering assessment by Hoyer (D-Md.) came in response to Trump's late-night warning Sunday to Iranian President Hassan Rouhani — in all capital letters — that Iran will face severe consequences if it threatens the United States again.

"He's weak on Putin, and he wants to prove he's tough on Rouhani," Hoyer said in an interview with The Washington Post. "It's a distraction. It's a distraction from the problems that he's having both with the awful, essentially un-American performance that he had in Helsinki, and I think this is just a way to sort of turn and beat his chest and say, 'I can be really tough on people,' and Rouhani and Iran are an easy target."

"As usual, the hyperbole he used was, in my opinion, unbecoming of an American president because the message it sends is not only of danger to Iran but danger to the global

community," Hoyer added. "One of the better Republican presidents said speak softly and carry a big stick. Trump does the opposite."

Hoyer was referring to President Theodore Roosevelt.

Following a joint news conference last week with Putin in Helsinki, Trump was condemned by members of both parties for not confronting the Russian leader more aggressively about interference in the U.S. election in 2016.

In his tweet Sunday night about Iran, Trump warned Rouhani to "NEVER, EVER THREATEN THE UNITED STATES AGAIN OR YOU WILL SUFFER CONSEQUENCES THE LIKES OF WHICH FEW THROUGHOUT HISTORY HAVE EVER SUFFERED BEFORE."

Earlier Sunday, Rouhani said the United States should avoid inciting Iranians against the government, with the Trump administration poised to reimpose sanctions suspended under a 2015 nuclear deal that Trump withdrew from in May.

"America should know that peace with Iran is the mother of all peace, and war with Iran is the mother of all wars," Rouhani said at a meeting of Iranian diplomats, according to Iran's state-owned Islamic Republic News Agency.

Other Democrats also stepped forward Monday to criticize Trump's tweet.

Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D-N.H.) told reporters in New Hampshire that such tweets "aggravate the situation."

"We have a definite challenge with Iran," Shaheen said. "I don't think the president's approach, creating foreign policy through tweet, is the right one. We need to have a strategy on Iran and how we approach them."

Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.), meanwhile, said that Trump's rhetoric toward Iran was reminiscent of some of the language he previously used regarding North Korea.

"Reckless Iran rhetoric creates risks — especially if words are unbacked by actionable strategy," Blumenthal said on Twitter. "Remember N Korea, now continuing to build nuclear capability, despite 'fire & fury' & a failed summit. What is Trump's Iran strategy?"

Also on Twitter, an account maintained by Democrats on the House Foreign Affairs Committee issued an all-caps tweet of its own, seeking to turn attention to Russian interference in the 2016 election.

"DON'T BE DISTRACTED BY ALL CAPS," said the tweet from the committee Democrats, led by Rep. Eliot L. Engel (D-N.Y.). "WE'RE NOT ATTACKING IRAN. BUT RUSSIA \*DID\* ATTACK OUR 2016 ELECTIONS TO HELP DONALD TRUMP, AND IS DOING SO AGAIN. TRUMP REFUSES TO HOLD RUSSIA ACCOUNTABLE AND SIDES WITH PUTIN OVER OUR INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY."

## Rep. Jim Himes: Trump Threatening Iran For Political Points

By Gabriella Muñoz

[Washington Times](#), July 23, 2018

Democrat Rep. Jim Himes suggested Monday that President Trump was going after Iran in order to rack up political points, after the president directed a fiery tweet at Iranian leader Hassan Rouhani.

During an interview on CNN's "New Day," the Connecticut congressman said Mr. Trump accused former President Barack Obama several times of wanting to use a war with Iran to rack up political points.

In November 2011, Mr. Trump did argue that Mr. Obama would start a war in order to get re-elected.

In order to get elected, @BarackObama will start a war with Iran. — Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) November 29, 2011

"I think it's an overstatement to say we're at the brink of war," Mr. Himes said.

However, the Democrat argued that Mr. Trump's comments were geared to rally political support.

"We need to be very sensitive to the fact that this president, who doesn't have a very sophisticated sense of international relations, regards war was a way to solve political problems," he said.

Mr. Himes said the U.S. should avoid getting into a war with Iran like it did with Iraq. He argued it has been a "long time" since Americans were "really revulsed" by the effects of the Iraq war.

"So most people have forgotten what it's like to open the newspaper every day and see four or five or six American names, who were killed in a Middle Eastern war," he said, "and if Iraq was tough, wait until you try Iran."

"I think it's an overstatement to say we're at the brink of war," says Rep. @JAHimes in response to President Trump tweeting an explosive threat to Iran. "I think that's probably not true." <https://t.co/wUA3om4Wllpic.twitter.com/JdiJ5uwJax> — New Day (@NewDay) July 23, 2018

The president threatened Iran with "consequences, the likes of which few throughout history have ever suffered before."

To Iranian President Rouhani: NEVER, EVER THREATEN THE UNITED STATES AGAIN OR YOU WILL SUFFER CONSEQUENCES THE LIKES OF WHICH FEW THROUGHOUT HISTORY HAVE EVER SUFFERED BEFORE. WE ARE NO LONGER A COUNTRY THAT WILL STAND FOR YOUR DEMENTED WORDS OF VIOLENCE & DEATH. BE CAUTIOUS! — Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) July 23, 2018

The tweet came in response to Mr. Rouhani warning Mr. Trump that hostility toward his country would incite "the mother of all wars," according to a Reuters report.

## Tim Kaine: Trump's 'Belligerent' Tweet Signals Looming US War With Iran

By Susan Ferrechio

[Washington Examiner](#), July 23, 2018

Sen. Tim Kaine, D-Va., a member of the Senate Foreign Relations panel and the 2016 Democratic vice presidential nominee, said President Trump's "belligerent" Sunday tweet warning Iran not to threaten the United States is "an alarming warning sign that he's blundering toward war with Iran."

Trump tweeted an all-caps warning aimed at Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, who earlier in response to a speech by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo threatened that a "war with Iran is the mother of all wars."

Trump later tweeted, "NEVER, EVER THREATEN THE UNITED STATES AGAIN OR YOU WILL SUFFER CONSEQUENCES THE LIKES OF WHICH FEW THROUGHOUT HISTORY HAVE EVER SUFFERED BEFORE. WE ARE NO LONGER A COUNTRY THAT WILL STAND FOR YOUR DEMENTED WORDS OF VIOLENCE & DEATH. BE CAUTIOUS!"

Kaine said in a statement Monday that Trump's tweet and his decision to back out of former President Barack Obama's nuclear deal with Iran could pull the United States into "another preventable war in the Middle East."

## Iranian Terror On European Soil

**I was attacked in Istanbul in 1990. An attack in Paris was foiled this month.**

By Hossein Abedini

[Wall Street Journal](#), July 23, 2018

Full-text stories from the Wall Street Journal are available to Journal subscribers by clicking the link.

## Images Indicate North Korea Dismantling Facilities At Test Site: Report

By Reuters Staff

[Reuters](#), July 23, 2018

Full-text stories from Reuters currently cannot be included in this document. You may, however, click the link above to access the story.

## North Korea Begins Dismantling Key Test Site, Satellite Imagery Suggests

[Washington Post](#), July 23, 2018

North Korea has begun dismantling the facilities at the satellite launch station in Sohae, according to an analysis of commercial satellite imagery released on the 38 North website.

The Sohae location has been the main site for North Korean satellite launches since 2012. The testing facilities at the site are thought to play a role in the development of liquid-



fuel engines that can also be used in North Korea's ballistic missile program.

If the analysis of the satellite imagery is accurate, North Korea may be taking a small but significant step toward the disarmament that was agreed upon by North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and President Trump during a landmark meeting in Singapore on June 12.

After that summit, Trump said Kim had pledged to dismantle a missile site; U.S. officials later confirmed that the site that the U.S. president was referring to was Sohae. However, the lack of visible progress toward that pledge was one factor that soon served to undermine the agreements reached between Kim and Trump.

The images published by 38 North, a U.S.-based website focused on North Korea that is affiliated with the Stimson Center in Washington, were taken by the commercial companies Digital Globe and Airbus Defense and Space on July 20 and July 22, respectively.

In one set of images, it appears that a rail-mounted processing building is being dismantled. This building is where space launch vehicles are assembled before they are moved to the launchpad, according to 38 North analyst Joseph S. Bermudez Jr.

Separately, images show activity around a vertical engine test stand at Sohae. Bermudez notes that in the images from July 22, the test stand appears to have been "completely dismantled," adding that "given the state of activity, work is likely to have begun sometime within the past two weeks."

On Twitter, 38 North's founder, Joel Wit, said the images suggested that North Korea may be willing to "give up its space launch program." Wit, a former State Department negotiator with North Korea and a consistent advocate for dialogue with Pyongyang, said such a move would be just one step in the right direction, "but an important one."

Notably, the timeline of the satellite images suggests that North Korea may have begun dismantling the facilities at Sohae after Secretary of State Mike Pompeo visited Pyongyang in early July in a bid to make progress on the agreement reached in Singapore.

However, the dismantlement of the facilities at Sohae appears to have taken place without outside experts there to verify it. The North Korean government has made a number of such unilateral moves since the start of the year, including the apparent destruction of the Punggye-ri nuclear test site in May. Analysts have cautioned that these steps need verification.

After a flurry of activity earlier in the year, there had been signs recently that ongoing denuclearization talks between the United States and North Korea were going slower than anticipated. U.S. intelligence officials said last month that Pyongyang was working to conceal key aspects of its nuclear program.

The Washington Post reported this past weekend that Trump, who had said last month that North Korea's nuclear problem was "largely solved," was now privately expressing concern about a lack of progress on the issue. On Monday, Trump tweeted that the story was "wrong" and that he was "very happy!"

## **North Korea Starts Dismantling Key Missile Facilities, Report Says**

By Choe Sang-Hun

[New York Times](#), July 23, 2018

North Korea has started dismantling a missile-engine test site, as President Trump said the North's leader, Kim Jong-un, promised he would during their historic summit meeting in Singapore in June, according to an analysis of satellite imagery of the location.

The North Koreans have started taking apart the engine test stand at the Sohae Satellite Launching Station, said Joseph S. Bermudez Jr., an expert on North Korea's weapons programs, in a report published on Monday on the website 38 North. The dismantling work probably began sometime within the last two weeks, he said.

North Korea has also started dismantling a rail-mounted building at the Sohae station where workers used to assemble space launch vehicles before moving them to the launchpad, Mr. Bermudez said.

Mr. Bermudez compared satellite photos of the Sohae facilities taken on Friday and Sunday to conclude that North Korea had begun taking "an important first step toward fulfilling a commitment made by Kim Jong-un."

But it still remained unclear whether North Korea planned to raze the entire Sohae site in the country's northeast, which has been vital to its space program. In satellite images, other important facilities like fuel bunkers, a main assembly building and the gantry tower remain untouched.

But dismantling activities at Sohae could be an encouraging sign for the Trump administration, which has so far had little to show for its efforts to denuclearize North Korea.

"Since these facilities are believed to have played an important role in the development of technologies for the North's intercontinental ballistic missile program, these efforts represent a significant confidence-building measure on the part of North Korea," Mr. Bermudez said.

North Korea has used the Sohae facilities to launch its satellite-carrying rockets. Washington called the satellite program a front for developing intercontinental ballistic missiles. Mr. Kim visited the Sohae missile engine test site in March last year when engineers there successfully tested a new high-thrust engine that was believed to have powered

intercontinental ballistic missiles the North launched months later.

Washington has been fretting over a lack of North Korean actions toward dismantling its nuclear and missile programs after the June 12 Singapore meeting, during which Mr. Kim made a general commitment to “work toward complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.”

Since his meeting with Mr. Kim, Mr. Trump has said that the North Korean nuclear crisis was largely over and that Mr. Kim planned to “get rid of certain ballistic missile sites and various other things.”

But North Korea has not moved as quickly as Mr. Trump wished, and has accused Washington of making a “unilateral, gangster-like demand for denuclearization” while offering the North little in return, like improved ties.

In recent days, American news reports have quoted administration officials as saying Mr. Trump has privately expressed frustration with the progress of denuclearization efforts. But on Monday, he dismissed the reports, tweeting that he was “very happy” with the progress with North Korea, noting that the country had not conducted any nuclear or missile tests since late last year.

North Korea officially says it no longer needs nuclear or missile tests because it has completed building its nuclear-tipped intercontinental ballistic missiles and begun mass-producing them. Some Western officials and analysts still doubt that the country has mastered the technologies needed for launching a reliable long-range missile to a target across an ocean.

North Korea has yet to explain what it meant by “complete denuclearization” — for instance, whether it would allow intrusive inspections by outside monitors to verify its actions.

Many analysts say North Korea will not have started denuclearizing until it begins dismantling its nuclear weapons. North Korea has not started disposing of its fissile materials or nuclear facilities, such as a nuclear reactor and centrifuges, that have been used to produce the weapons. Nor has it announced whether and when it will dismantle missiles that it says can deliver nuclear warheads.

## **Despite Reports To The Contrary, Trump Says He's ‘very Happy’ With North Korea**

[Washington Post](#), July 23, 2018

President Trump on Monday asserted that he’s “very happy” with progress toward ridding North Korea of nuclear weapons, despite the stiff resistance that U.S. officials have faced from the regime in the weeks since Trump’s summit with Kim Jong Un.

“A Rocket has not been launched by North Korea in 9 months,” Trump wrote in a morning tweet. “Likewise, no Nuclear Tests. Japan is happy, all of Asia is happy. But the

Fake News is saying, without ever asking me (always anonymous sources), that I am angry because it is not going fast enough. Wrong, very happy!”

A Rocket has not been launched by North Korea in 9 months. Likewise, no Nuclear Tests. Japan is happy, all of Asia is happy. But the Fake News is saying, without ever asking me (always anonymous sources), that I am angry because it is not going fast enough. Wrong, very happy!— Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) July 23, 2018

The Washington Post and other media outlets have reported in recent days that Trump has fumed at his aides in private about a lack of progress since the June 12 summit in Singapore, even as he publicly hails the success of the negotiations.

Diplomats say the North Koreans have canceled follow-up meetings, demanded more money and failed to maintain basic communications, even as the once-isolated regime’s engagements with China and South Korea flourish.

[In private, Trump vents frustration over lack of progress on North Korea]

Meanwhile, a missile-engine testing facility that Trump said would be destroyed remains intact, and U.S. intelligence officials say Pyongyang is working to conceal key aspects of its nuclear program.

When he emerged from his summit with Kim last month, Trump tri-umphantly declared that North Korea no longer posed a nuclear threat and that one of the world’s most intractable geopolitical crises had been “largely solved.”

His rosy assertions were mocked by Democrats, who argued that little had changed and suggested the president was naive for thinking a regime with a history of delay and obfuscation would change its practices.

John Hudson, Josh Dawsey and Carol D. Leonnig contributed to this report.

## **Trump Says He's ‘Very Happy’ With North Korea Negotiations**

By Gabriella Muñoz

[Washington Times](#), July 23, 2018

President Trump denied reports that he’s frustrated with North Korea on Monday, saying that he and “all of Asia” are happy with the progress.

Mr. Trump said North Korea hasn’t launched a nuclear or ballistic missile test in months, keeping with the pledge made by the country in March to refrain during peace talks.

He criticized the media’s use of anonymous sources and publishing reports “without ever asking me.”

A Rocket has not been launched by North Korea in 9 months. Likewise, no Nuclear Tests. Japan is happy, all of Asia is happy. But the Fake News is saying, without ever asking me (always anonymous sources), that I am angry

because it is not going fast enough. Wrong, very happy! — Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) July 23, 2018

The Washington Post published the initial report Sunday. Anonymous sources told The Post that the president gets daily updates but is frustrated by the lack of progress and the media coverage.

Mr. Trump pushed back against The Post Monday, accusing the paper of being an “expensive lobbyist” for Amazon.

The Post’s John Hudson responded to the president’s tweet, saying the newspaper contacted the White House for comment “multiple times” before publishing.

Despite reports that North Korea is stalling on negotiations and has not begun breaking down nuclear testing sites, as promised, Mr. Trump continues to tout successful negotiations and a good relationship with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un.

## **Companies See Glimmers Of Opportunity In North Korea**

By Jonathan Cheng

[Wall Street Journal](#), July 23, 2018

Full-text stories from the Wall Street Journal are available to Journal subscribers by clicking the link.

## **While Making Nice With US And Seoul, North Korea Slams Japan**

By Eric Talmadge

[Associated Press](#), July 23, 2018

North Korea’s state-run media have toned down their rhetorical attacks on the United States and South Korea while leader Kim Jong Un pursues a more diplomatic approach, but the vitriol continues — and Japan is now Pyongyang’s favorite foil.

Commentaries critical of Tokyo, which has maintained a harder line toward Pyongyang than Seoul and Washington, have increased noticeably in recent weeks in a strategy aimed at driving a wedge between Japan and its allies.

Over the past few days, the North’s official media have chastised Japan for discriminating against its large ethnic Korean community and played up South Korean reports that protesters in Seoul threw eggs at the Japanese Embassy over Tokyo’s alleged attempts to take control over a disputed island that is a cause celebre for both North and South.

Pyongyang has also lambasted Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono for suggesting Japan could foot part of the bill for inspections to verify the North’s denuclearization process.

Japan ruled the Korean Peninsula as a colony from 1910 to 1945 and the history of animosity between the neighbors goes back centuries. Tokyo and Pyongyang have never had formal diplomatic ties.

But North Korea’s strategy of deliberately keeping Tokyo at arm’s length has been particularly apparent over the past several months, as Kim has held summits with China, South Korea and the United States. He is expected to hold a summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin in September.

In a typical commentary late last week, the North Korean ruling party’s daily newspaper, Rodong Sinmun, called Japan “impotent” in the political and diplomatic arena and said Kono was a “political charlatan.”

“Japan is near to the Korean Peninsula. But Japan is a burglar that historically inflicted wars and misfortune and pain of colonial rule on Korea,” it said before getting to North Korea’s often repeated demand: “Japan should make a sincere apology and reparation for the past crimes.”

Because it is state-run, North Korea’s media offer a good barometer of Pyongyang’s political climate. Since earlier this year, they have significantly cut back on negative commentaries directed at U.S. President Donald Trump and South Korean President Moon Jae-in, presumably to avoid souring the North’s ongoing diplomatic outreach toward both countries.

It has, however, reserved the right to lash out at some of their negotiators or policies without slamming the leaders themselves.

Pyongyang’s game of hardball with Tokyo is calculated to play well in China and South Korea, which also harbor deep distrust toward Japan. Tokyo has clearly been relegated to a secondary role in the talks to persuade Kim to abandon his nuclear arsenal and bring his country more into the norms of the international community.

But while Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is also reportedly considering a one-on-one meeting with Kim, he has held surprisingly firm to a tough policy of maintaining economic and political pressure on the North. The Japanese leader could meet Kim at an eastern Russia development forum in Vladivostok in September, where Kim and Putin may hold their summit.

Abe’s position is extremely delicate.

Public sentiment in Japan toward North Korea is generally negative. The North already has ballistic missiles that could be used to launch a conventional, biological or nuclear attack on Tokyo or other major cities, along with U.S. military bases throughout Japan where tens of thousands of American troops are deployed. Kim unilaterally announced a moratorium on long-range missile launches, pleasing Trump, but has pointedly said nothing about the mid-range missiles that concern Japan the most.

Abe is also committed to resolving a bitter dispute over more than a dozen Japanese citizens who were abducted by North Korean agents in the 1970s and ‘80s. Pyongyang insists that issue has been resolved.

Tokyo claims the North has not been fully transparent about the fate of the abductees and whether any are still alive.

The biggest hurdle, however, could well be the reparations issue, which some experts believe could cost Japan billions of dollars.

North Korea has long demanded that Japan pay for the damage it caused during its often brutal colonial rule. Although Japan claims that matter was settled long ago, the shifting ties between Pyongyang, Seoul and Washington — and particularly efforts to formally declare an end to the 1950-53 Korean War — could put Tokyo under increased pressure to re-examine its own past or be left out in the cold.

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### **China First Half Total Trade With North Korea Slumps 56 Percent Year-On-Year In Dollar Terms-Customs**

By Reuters

[New York Times](#), July 22, 2018

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